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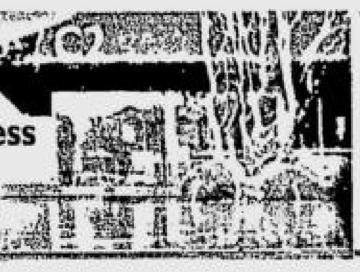

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
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MANGYAN / A20

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Tuesday, April 27, 2004 ★★ 52 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 139 P18

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YELLOW/ A8

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ATE GLO/ A10

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PRO-LACSON/ A10

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By Martin P. Marfil
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PDI Central Luzon Desk

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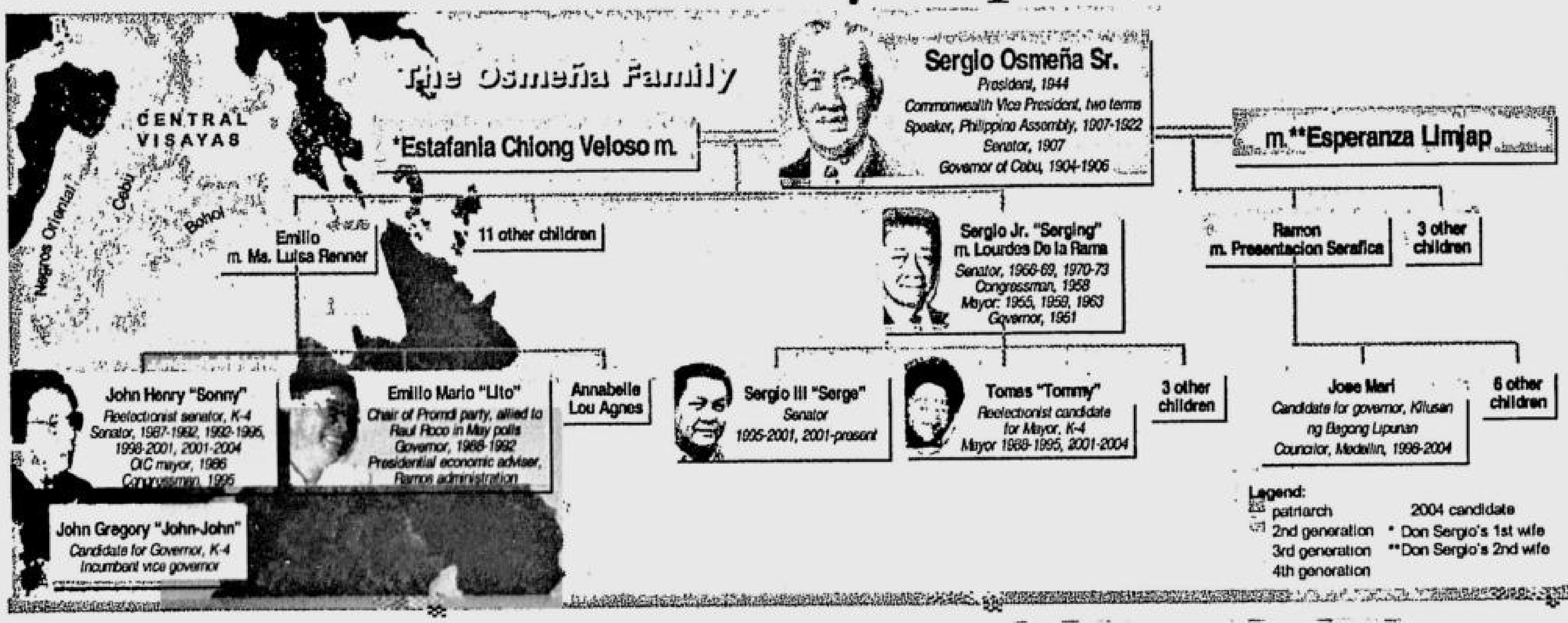

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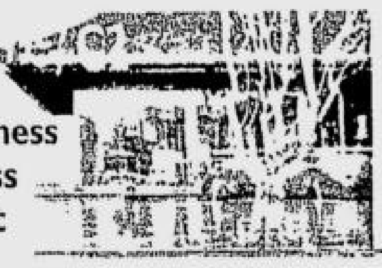

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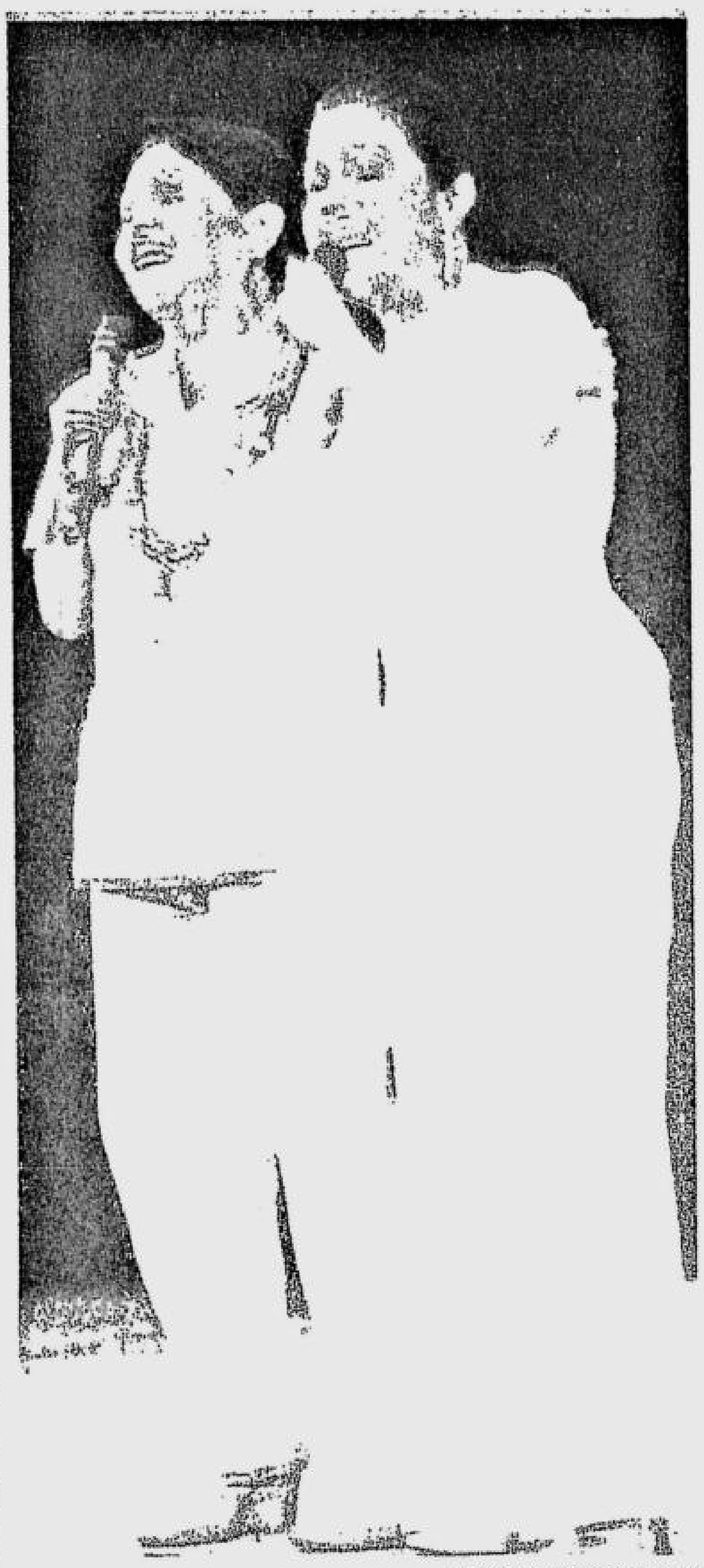

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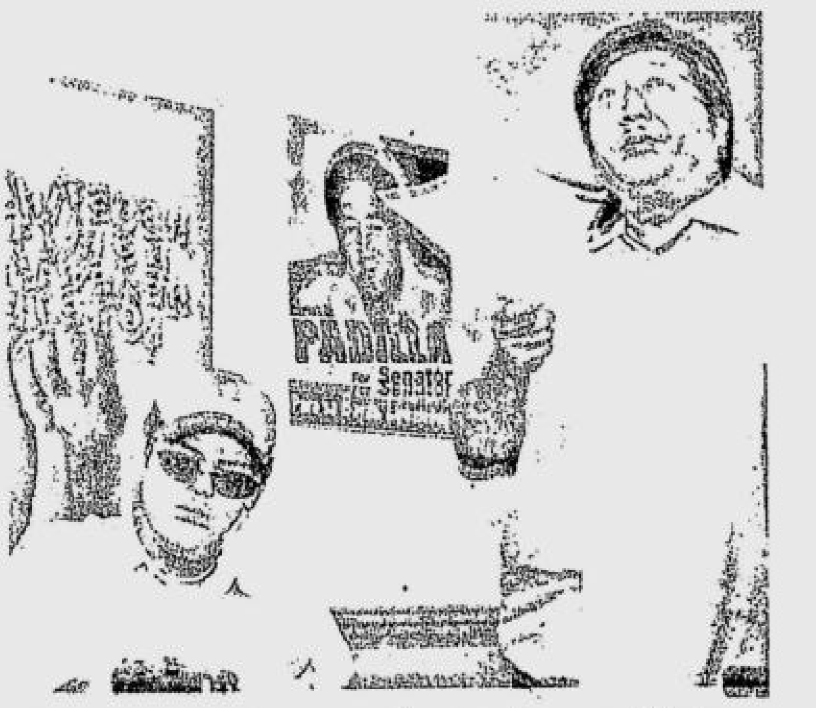
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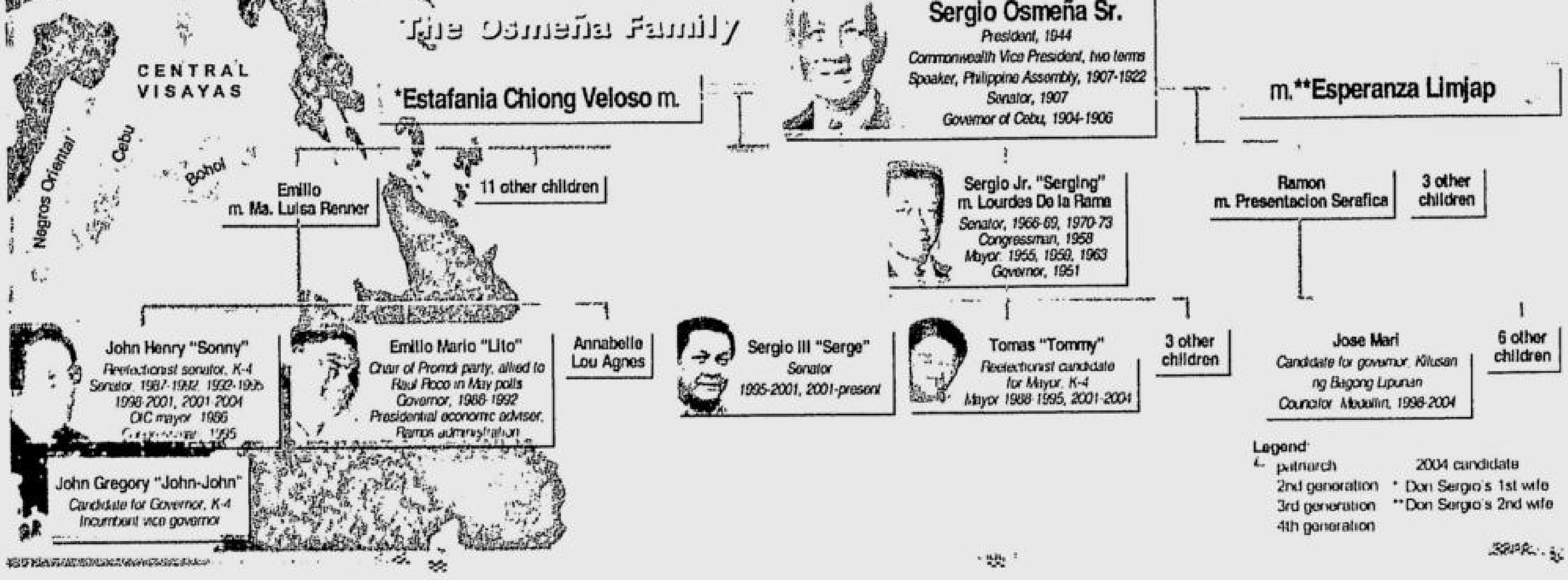
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OSMENAS A20

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/27/04

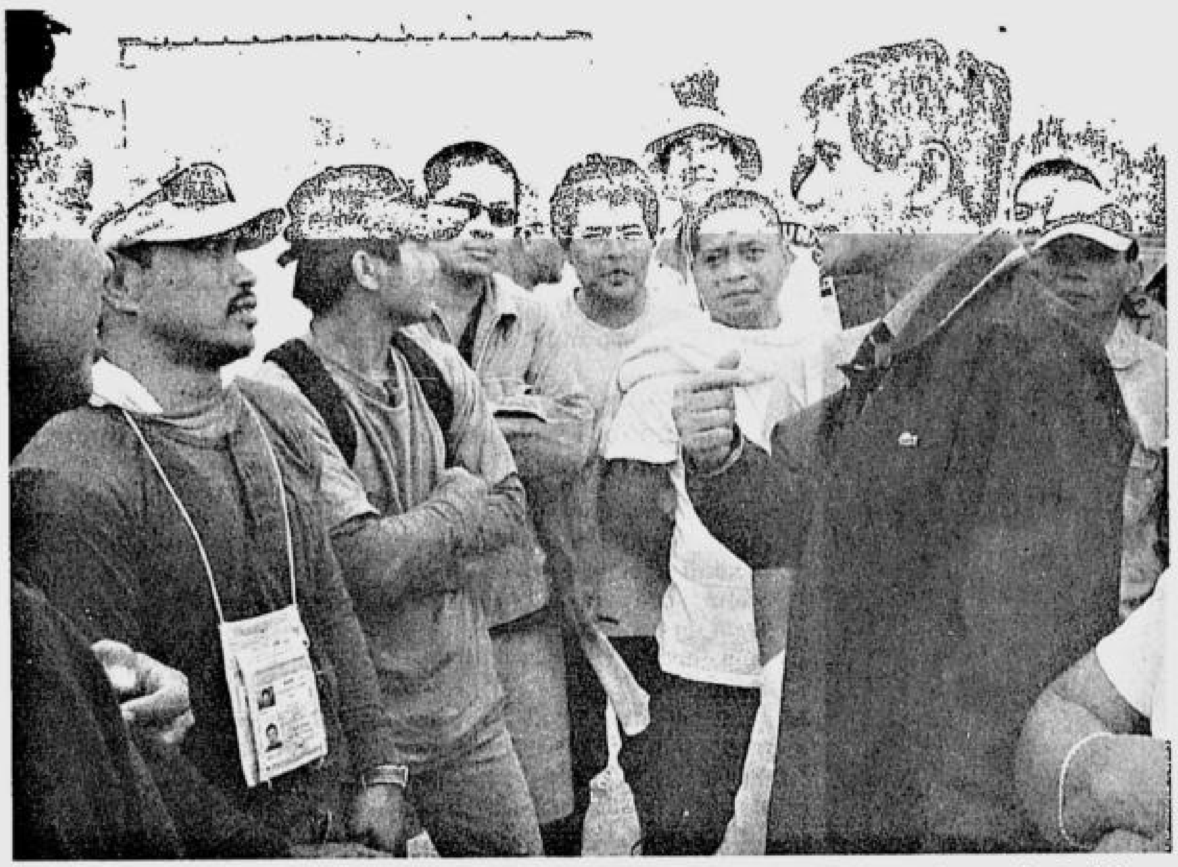
Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Not all Pinoy OFWs in Iraq safe—Cimatu

By Jerome Aning



AMBASSADOR Roy Cimatu, head of the inter-government Iraq Team, meets Filipino workers at the Coalition-run Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. Cimatu toured the Baghdad area last week to assess the safety of Filipino workers there amidst escalating violence in Iraq. DFA PHOTO

Not all of the Filipino overseas workers in Iraq stationed in US-led Coalition military camps, bases and facilities are safe, this was the assessment of Ambassador Roy Cimatu, head of the government's Iraq Team.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Cimatu modified his earlier statement that the estimated 4,000 OFWs in Iraq were safe in spite of the violence targeting Coalition troops.

Cimatu based his latest assessment of the OFWs' safety and security on his visit last week to three camps in Baghdad, including Camp Victory, which is heavily guarded and fortified by US troops.

Although the ambassador was not able to visit the Coalition camps that had Filipino workers, other members of the Iraq team will be, or are currently visiting facilities in Mosul, Balad, Basra, Taji, Nasiriyah and Umm Qasr to document the Filipinos there and evaluate their condition.

Threats to Coalition facilities, Cimatu explained, often come in the form of suicide bombings, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attacks. To avoid early detection, these attacks are launched from a distance and not within the Coalition camp's vicinity.

2 Pinoys hurt

He confirmed reports that two Filipino workers were injured early this month during mortar attacks by Iraqi militants of Camps Freedom and Glory in the northern city of Mosul. The workers had come from Turkey. Vicente Endaya, Philippine charge d'affaires to Iraq, reported the incident to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Cimatu met with OFWs in Iraq who told him they were aware of the risks when they agreed to be deployed in strife-torn Middle East state.

"It was their decision to work in Iraq. On our (government's), part we are always prepared to help them and we'll be there when something bad happens," he said.

1,300 Filipinos

Cimatu also met with Filipinos working in Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. About 1,200 Filipinos work in the camp, while another 100 work in the airport proper.

"They are satisfied with their working conditions and have expressed the desire to remain in Iraq," he said.

The DFA said Filipino workers are not allowed to venture out of the camps and bases. Those who are allowed to do so are warned to take precautionary measures by avoiding restaurants, coffee shops and other public places targeted by terrorist bombers.

Cimatu revealed the revised exit plan for OFWs in Iraq which is via chartered plane to a third country, specifically Kuwait. The companies that hired the Filipinos would shoulder the expenses.

No visas

The DFA said the OFWs were able to enter Iraq easily because the interim government there does not require visas for foreign workers. Many of them were employed by contractors or subcontractors based in neighboring countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Filipinos work as plumbers, construction crew, machine operators, drivers, cooks, bakers, caterers, secretaries, nurses and even barbers, hairdressers and manicurists for the Coalition or for firms hired by the Coalition for reconstruction work in Iraq.

Cimatu was quite concerned with OFWs working as drivers because they travel from city to city, sometimes to and from Iraq's neighboring countries to deliver and get food, equipment and other supplies needed by the Coalition.

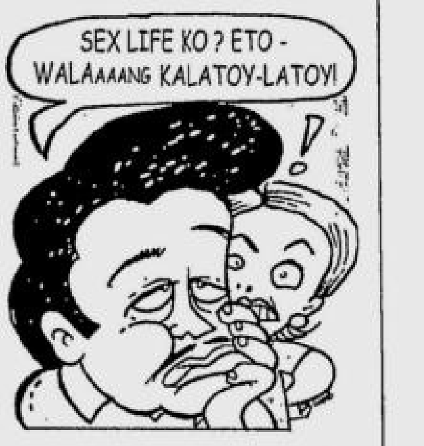
Three weeks ago, a Filipino driver found himself with dozens of foreigners briefly hostaged by militant Iraqis who attacked Coalition forces.

Because of this, Cimatu has recommended that the labor department discourage Filipinos from taking drivers' jobs in Iraq unless their protection is assured.

Aside from Cimatu and Endaya, the other members of the Iraq team are: the contingent commander, Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the Philippine labor attaché in Iraq, the Philippine ambassadors to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon, and eight high-ranking police officials.

Erap's plaint: The ladies don't come around anymore

By Armand N. Nocum



SEX LIFE KO? ETO - WALAAAANG KALATOY-LATOY!

HE'S through with love, but it's not for lack of trying

"*Wala na. Mahina na ang tuhod* (There's no more to give. My knees are weak)," deposed President Joseph Estrada told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview over the weekend.

Estrada, who is suffering from osteoarthritis, was reacting to critics who had doubted his claim last week that his "sex life" was "zero," following his transfer to a military camp in Tanay, Rizal.

Now 67, out of power, sickly and detained in a far-off military camp for plunder and graft charges, Estrada complains that many of the ladies he had been linked to no longer come around.

"*Wala nang nagpupunta dito. Hindi na* conducive *ang* atmosphere (Nobody comes here anymore. The atmosphere is not conducive)," Estrada said before letting out a hearty laugh.

During an ocular inspection of his rest house a hundred meters away from the camp by Sandiganbayan justices last week, Estrada told reporters that the heat in his "small" quarters at Camp Capinpin and the lack of amenities was killing romance.

He said his idea of a conducive environment was one where the room is big, smells nice, and has a bathtub.

Prosecution lawyers have opposed Estrada's motion asking the court to transfer him to his 15-hectare rest house, describing it as a virtual house arrest.

By the time he became President, Estrada—who is married to Sen. Loi Estrada—had been linked to actresses Guia Gomez, Laarni Enriquez and Perla Bautista, Joy Melendres, and Rowena Lopez.

During the failed impeachment proceedings against Estrada three years ago, reports said part of Estrada's P4.1 billion allegedly plundered from the government was used to finance the construction of multi-million luxurious houses and to buy expensive gifts for his women.

But in previous interviews with the INQUIRER, Estrada consistently denied the graft charges, saying he only knew of two sins that contributed to his downfall—being a womanizer and a poor judge of character of his friends and officials, some of whom have either turned against him or have deserted him.

Meanwhile, Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert E. Kallos said his office is opposing Estrada's motion to vote in his hometown of San Juan, Metro Manila during the May 10 elections, citing security reasons.

"That is very risky," he said, referring to the move to transfer Estrada from Tanay to San Juan, and back in the middle of the national elections.

Kallos said they would rather have the Comelec go to Tanay to get Estrada's vote like what happened in the 2001 senatorial elections when the former President voted from his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Honasan seeks SC help to stop DOJ coup probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

FEARING possible arrest, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday asked the Supreme Court to cite for contempt the Department of Justice prosecutors' panel investigating coup d'état charges against him for his alleged role in the July 27 Oakwood mutiny last year.

Honasan said the justice panel, led by Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacer, had been looking into the charges although the high court had not yet ruled with finality on his petition to transfer the investigation to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Last week, the justice department gave Honasan until May 3 to submit his counter-affidavit after the Supreme Court ruled on April 13 that the panel had jurisdiction over the case.

But Honasan counsel Daniel Gutierrez, said the ruling becomes final and executory only on May 7, adding that they would file a motion for reconsideration before the high court.

"The directive to submit a counter-affidavit without awaiting the finality of the April 13 decision would result in a scenario where (the panel) will rush things, consider Honasan to have waived his right to file a counter-affidavit, and then file the corresponding information in court, thus securing warrants of arrest posthaste," Gutierrez said.

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Police were still questioning the captain and crew about their cargo and its destination.

Trade in the deadly chemical is restricted. Small miners in North Sulawesi often use it to separate gold from ore. *AFP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA PDI RESEARCH/04/27/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Not all Pinoy OFWs in Iraq safe—Cimatu

By Jerome Aning

Not all of the Filipino overseas workers in Iraq stationed in US-led Coalition military camps, bases and facilities are safe, this was the assessment of Ambassador Roy Cimatu, head of the government's Iraq Team.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, Cimatu modified his earlier statement that the estimated 4,000 OFWs in Iraq were safe in spite of the violence targeting Coalition troops.

Cimatu based his latest assessment of the OFWs' safety and security on his visit last week to three camps in Baghdad, including Camp Victory, which is heavily guarded and fortified by US troops.

Although the ambassador was not able to visit the Coalition camps that had Filipino workers, other members of the Iraq team will be, or are currently visiting facilities in Mosul, Balad, Basra, Taji, Nasiriyah and Umm Qasr to document the Filipinos there and evaluate their condition.

Threats to Coalition facilities, Cimatu explained, often come in the form of suicide bombings, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attacks. To avoid early detection, these attacks are launched from a distance and not within the Coalition camp's vicinity.

2 Pinoys hurt

He confirmed reports that two Filipino workers were injured early this month during mortar attacks by Iraqi militants of Camps Freedom and Glory in the northern city of Mosul. The workers had come from Turkey. Vicente Endaya, Philippine charge d'affaires to Iraq, reported the incident to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Cimatu met with OFWs in Iraq who told him they were aware of the risks when they agreed to be deployed in strife-torn Middle East state.

"It was their decision to work in Iraq. On our (government's), part we are always prepared to help them and we'll be there when something bad happens," he said.

AMBASSADOR Roy Cimatu, head of the inter-government Iraq Team, meets Filipino workers at the Coalition-run Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. Cimatu toured the Baghdad area last week to assess the safety of Filipino workers there amidst escalating violence in Iraq. DPA PHOTO

1,300 Filipinos

Cimatu also met with Filipinos working in Camp Victory, which encompasses the Baghdad International Airport. About 1,200 Filipinos work in the camp, while another 100 work in the airport proper.

"They are satisfied with their working conditions and have expressed the desire to remain in Iraq," he said.

The DFA said Filipino workers are not allowed to venture out of the camps and bases. Those who are allowed to do so are warned to take precautionary measures by avoiding restaurants, coffee shops and other public places targeted by terrorist bombers.

Cimatu revealed the revised exit plan for OFWs in Iraq which is via chartered plane to a third country, specifically Kuwait. The companies that hired the Filipinos would shoulder the expenses.

No visas

The DFA said the OFWs were able to enter Iraq easily because the interim government there does not require visas for foreign workers. Many of them were employed by contractors or subcontractors based in neighboring countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

The Filipinos work as plumbers, construction crew, machine operators, drivers, cooks, bakers, caterers, secretaries, nurses and even barbers, hairdressers and manicurists for the Coalition or for firms hired by the Coalition for reconstruction work in Iraq.

Cimatu was quite concerned with OFWs working as drivers because they travel from city to city, sometimes to and from Iraq's neighboring countries to deliver and get food, equipment and other supplies needed by the Coalition.

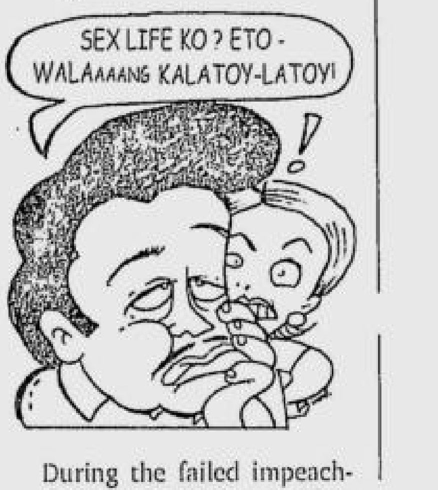
Three weeks ago, a Filipino driver found himself with dozens of foreigners briefly hostaged by militant Iraqis who attacked Coalition forces.

Because of this, Cimatu has recommended that the labor department discourage Filipinos from taking drivers' jobs in Iraq unless their protection is assured.

Aside from Cimatu and Endaya, the other members of the Iraq team are: the contingent commander, Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the Philippine labor attaché in Iraq, the Philippine ambassadors to Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Lebanon, and eight high-ranking police officials.

Erap's plaint: The ladies don't come around anymore

By Armand N. Nocum



SEX LIFE KO ? ETO - WALAAAANG KALATOY-LATOY!
!

HE'S through with love, but it's not for lack of trying

"*Wala na. Mahina na ang tuhod* (There's no more to give. My knees are weak)," deposed President Joseph Estrada told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview over the weekend.

Estrada, who is suffering from osteoarthritis, was reacting to critics who had doubted his claim last week that his "sex life" was "zero," following his transfer to a military camp in Tanay, Rizal.

Now 67, out of power, sickly and detained in a far-off military camp for plunder and graft charges, Estrada complains that many of the ladies he had been linked to no longer come around.

"*Wala nang nagpupunta dito. Hindi na* conducive *ang* atmosphere (Nobody comes here anymore. The atmosphere is not conducive)," Estrada said before letting out a hearty laugh.

During an ocular inspection of his rest house a hundred meters away from the camp by Sandiganbayan justices last week, Estrada told reporters that the heat in his "small" quarters at Camp Capinpin and the lack of amenities was killing romance.

He said his idea of a conducive environment was one where the room is big, smells nice, and has a bathtub.

Prosecution lawyers have opposed Estrada's motion asking the court to transfer him to his 15-hectare rest house, describing it as a virtual house arrest.

By the time he became President, Estrada—who is married to Sen. Loi Estrada—had been linked to actresses Guia Gomez, Laarni Enriquez and Perla Bautista, Joy Melendres, and Rowena Lopez.

During the failed impeachment proceedings against Estrada three years ago, reports said part of Estrada's P4.1 billion allegedly plundered from the government was used to finance the construction of multi-million luxurious houses and to buy expensive gifts for his women.

But in previous interviews with the INQUIRER, Estrada consistently denied the graft charges, saying he only knew of two sins that contributed to his downfall—being a womanizer and a poor judge of character of his friends and officials, some of whom have either turned against him or have deserted him.

Meanwhile, Deputy Special Prosecutor Robert E. Kallos said his office is opposing Estrada's motion to vote in his hometown of San Juan, Metro Manila during the May 10 elections, citing security reasons.

"That is very risky," he said, referring to the move to transfer Estrada from Tanay to San Juan, and back in the middle of the national elections.

Kallos said they would rather have the Comelec go to Tanay to get Estrada's vote like what happened in the 2001 senatorial elections when the former President voted from his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Honasan seeks SC help to stop DOJ coup probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

FEARING possible arrest, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday asked the Supreme Court to cite for contempt the Department of Justice prosecutors' panel investigating coup d'état charges against him for his alleged role in the July 27 Oakwood mutiny last year.

Honasan said the justice panel, led by Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacer, had been looking into the charges although the high court had not yet ruled with finality on his petition to transfer the investigation to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Last week, the justice department gave Honasan until May 3 to submit his counter-affidavit after the Supreme Court ruled on April 13 that the panel had jurisdiction over the case.

But Honasan counsel Daniel Gutierrez, said the ruling becomes final and executory only on May 7, adding that they would file a motion for reconsideration before the high court.

"The directive to submit a counter-affidavit without awaiting the finality of the April 13 decision would result in a scenario where (the panel) will rush things, consider Honasan to have waived his right to file a counter-affidavit, and then file the corresponding information in court, thus securing warrants of arrest posthaste," Gutierrez said.

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DIVERS, led by SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo (left), hold up a piece of metal frame recovered from the sunken spy ship USS Lanikai in Subic Bay. AFP

Sunken spy ship dug up from watery Subic grave

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A 90-year-old wooden schooner has been dug from its watery grave near this former US naval base, bringing to light the heroism of its Filipino and American crew in World War II.

"It brings a lot of memories about my father," says Jaime Velarmino, 65, as he inspects the barnacle-encrusted wheel of the 76-foot (23-meter) Lanikai, which was sunk by a storm in 1947 shortly after the war.

Velarmino's father, Hilario Velarmino, was among the 12 Filipinos in the 18-man crew of the vessel, which US and Filipino naval historians say played a crucial role in the allied effort against Japan.

Built in 1914, the Lanikai once fished Alaskan salmon in Seattle and was chartered out as a yacht from Hawaii, briefly sailing in Hollywood when it was used for the pre-war movie "Hurricane" before it was commissioned into the US Navy at the start of the war in 1941.

According to Filipino historians, US President Franklin Roosevelt ordered it to be fitted with guns and sent it on secret missions. The Lanikai gathered intelligence for the US Navy and had patrolled the shores of Indonesia and Australia to monitor the southward push of the Japanese Imperial Army.

But the auxiliary schooner skippered by Lieutenant Kemp Tolley during the war, may have had an even bigger mission.

"There were some accounts that Roosevelt may have used it to bait the Japanese to start World War II," says Felicito Payumo, who heads Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority which runs Subic, once American's premier naval base in Asia until 1992.

Payumo says the Americans have not confirmed such accounts, and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew the US into the war before the Lanikai was able to play a pivotal role.

Australian Brian Homan, who operates a dive shop and a restaurant-cum museum in Subic, discovered the wreckage of the Lanikai in October last year, but reported it to the SBMA just last month.

On March 22, a team of Australian and Filipino divers commissioned by the SBMA found the wreckage lying at a depth of 30.48 meters (100 feet) on Nabasan Bay.

Capt. Victor Mamon, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operation supervised the recovery operation of artifacts.

Mamon said the artifacts, which include removable or detachable parts of the ship, would be put on display at the SBMA museum. The rest of the wreckage will be left under the sea and turned into a diving spot for tourists.

The US Navy had also been in touch and is working on a documentary about Lanikai, officials in Subic said.

In his book "Cruise of the Lanikai: Incitement to War," Tolley paid tribute to the Filipino crew's unflagging dedication to the war.

"Considering the mission given to Lanikai and that majority of its crew were Filipinos, this is a historical find," Payumo said.

It also underscores the importance of Subic in US naval history, and by extension the Philippines, which remains a staunch American military ally in the region. *With AFP*

Muslims question fatwa vs GMA

MUSLIM groups yesterday questioned the fatwa (religious edict) issued by the Bangsamoro Supreme Council of Ulama (BSCU) urging the Islamic faithful not to vote for President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 10 elections.

The Filipino Muslim Alliance (FMA), through its national president Amoran Andoga, said: "The fatwa does not represent the true sentiments of the Filipino Muslims because it is devoid of the truth."

Andoga said it appeared that it was only a small group of ulama headed by Sheikh Jamil Yahya that had issued the fatwa.

Andoga said Yahya, described in yesterday's INQUIRER story as the country's top Muslim cleric, had "cheapened our Islamic faith by succumbing to politics, man's folly and weakness, and passing off their prejudice as the word of God." The FMA is affiliated with the People's Patriotic Movement.

The FMA said that even BSCU officials like Aleem Mansawi Macabuat and Aleem Abu Hannin Yusof were surprised by the INQUIRER story about the fatwa as this was not discussed or processed according to Islamic tradition.

The FMA said President Macapagal had done much to uplift the plight of Filipino Muslims and promote their faith. Her declaration of Eid Il Fitre as a national holiday was something that promoted Islam in the consciousness of all Filipinos, which none of the ulamas or Bangsamoro leaders had ever done, it said.

The President had also encouraged and funded madrasa education for the Islamic faithful all over the Philippines in order to teach the proper form of Islam, it said.

The FMA said it was only Ms Macapagal who had a genuine peace and development agenda that could finally settle the conflict in Mindanao.

The Ummah party, another Muslim religious group affiliated with the People's Patriotic Movement, issued a statement denying the authenticity of the fatwa.

Aleem Amerodin Sarangani, head of the Ummah party and the KNP candidate for governor of Lanao del Sur, said no such fatwa against President Macapagal was issued.

Sarangani also said that among all the presidential candidates, he felt that it was only Ms Macapagal who would continue to promote the welfare of the Filipino Muslims.

"Although I am a candidate for the opposition, I have to speak the truth as a man of God and leader of my people," he said.

GSIS offers restructuring of loans

By Michelle V. Remo

HAVING a hard time paying off your loans with the Government Service Insurance System?

Qualified applicants can now restructure their GSIS loans under the facility's pension fund called "Comprehensive Action Thru Restructuring and Condonation of Loans, Enhanced Salary Loan Program and Summer-one-month Salary Package," or CARES.

Restructured loans are allowed only after six monthly installments have been paid by the borrower, remitted and officially received by the GSIS.

"The program was in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's challenge to make the GSIS an institution that its members can depend on in these times of economic uncertainty," said GSIS General Manager Winston Garcia.

Under the program, an applicant is given a fresh repayment period of between two to four years for the outstanding principal loan and unpaid interests, and condones surcharges in the loan amount.

The liability is computed by adding the gross loan amount (outstanding principal and unpaid interests), the salary loan redemption insurance premiums, and service fees.

42.8M voters in final list

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday said that there will be 42.8 million voters in its list of voters for May 10.

According to Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, the Comelec sealed its book of voters on April 25 and, based on his estimate, the number of voters was about 42.8 million.

"There will be no more exclusions or inclusions," he said.

However, Abalos added that there is an exception when there is "clerical inadvertence."

The book of voters, the Comelec's information office said, is the binded voters registration records or VRR.

This is the same as the certified voters list or CVLs, the controversial document which the National Movement for Free Elections or Namfrel earlier said is full of errors, citing the experience of its secretary general Guillermo "Bill" Luz.

According to Namfrel, Luz failed to find his name in the CVL provided by the Comelec.

But National Capital Region Comelec chief Esmeralda Amora-Ladra yesterday disputed this saying that Luz's name could be found in the updated CVL which she provided Namfrel.

Ladra said that she talked to Namfrel chief Jose Concepcion and Luz and both apologized for the Namfrel press statement which claimed that Luz's name was not in it.

The private watchdog had said it had seen gross inaccuracies in voters' data such as wrong birth dates, ages and precinct assignments, and warned of confusion on May 10 if these are not corrected.

Luz was vocal in calling the vaunted modernization program of the poll body as a "P1-billion screw-up" that began during the term of retired Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

Our population clock is ticking...

As we went to press this midnight, there were 83,955,661 Filipinos. In just 30 years, there will be 168,904,059 Filipinos-- if government fails to act.

Voters, You have the right to know every candidate's stand on family planning!

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DOTC SECRETARY LEANDRO MENDOZA, ANO PO ANG TUNAY NA NANGYARI SA PAGPATAY KAY CAPT. PANFILO VILLARUEL?

HALOS MAY isang taon na ang nakararaan ay hindi pa rin nakakamtan ng pamilya ng pinaslang na si Capt. Panfilo Villaruel ang katarungan sa kabila ng maliwanag at di-mapapasubaliang ebidensya na siya ay walang-awang pinatay habang nakikipagnegosasyon sa kanyang pagsuko sa mga awtoridad sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Si Villaurel ay pinaslang ng mga kasapi ng SWAT bago pa man niya maibunyag ang mga anomalya sa Air Transportation Office (ATO) at pati na rin sa Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Hindi na nagawang isiwalat ni Villaruel ang sangkaterbang anomalya sa ATO at DOTC dahil siya ay walang-awang pinatay, tinadtad ng bala, at siniguradong hindi na siya magkakaroon ng pagkakataong magsalita pa.

Bakit siya kailangang patayin?

Bakit sa kabila ng pangako ninyong ilantad ang kabuuan ng pagsisiyasat ay wala ni isang buliling ng ulat hinggil dito?

Nasaan na ang resulta ng imbestigasyon?

Sino ang ulo sa desisyon na kitilin ang buhay ni Villaruel at kanyang kasama?

Talaga bang natutulog ang katarungan sa ating bansa sa ilalim ng pamahalaang Arroyo?

Panagutin natin ang may responsibilidad sa walang-awang pagpaslang kay Villaruel!

Katarungan kay Capt. Panfilo Villaruel!

Kaming mga nagmamahal sa katarungan at sa banal na buhay ng bawat Pilipinong nagmamahal sa katinuan sa pamahalaan ay nakikiisa sa naulilang pamilya ni Villaruel at hinihiling na muling buksan ang kaso upang panagutin ang nagbigay ng utos na patayin si Villaruel at kanyang kasama.

Kalunos-lunos ang krimeng ito dahil ito ay ginawa matapos na magsabi si Villaruel na siya ay susuko na at handang harapin ang parusang ipapataw sa kanya.

Narinig ng buong bansa ang madugong kabanatang ito, at si Villaruel ay pinatay habang kausap niya sa telepono ang tagapag-ulat ng Channel 7. Bakit hanggang ngayon ay hindi ninyo maipaliwanag sa bayan na ang matataas na opisyales ng rehimeng Arroyo ang nagpasya na tapusin ang buhay ni Villaruel?

Kayo ba ay takot sa katotohanan? O mayroon kayong nalalaman na hindi namin alam?

MGA KAIBIGAN NI CAPT. VILLARUEL

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PAL, other airline offices in Bangkok get threats

BANGKOK—Three airlines, including Philippine Airlines, have been threatened with attacks in their Bangkok offices, in warnings believed issued by a group that has targeted Asian embassies, flights and tourist spots, Thai police said Monday.

Police said PAL, Korean Air and Kuwait Airways received letters warning of strikes on their offices, in a campaign believed to be linked to the United States-led operations in Iraq.

Special Branch commander Tritot Ronaritwitichai said the letters were similar to warnings sent to the Pakistani and South Korean embassies last week by a mysterious group calling itself the "Yellow-Red Overseas Organization."

"The letters are similar to that sent to the Korean Embassy, the format and fonts are similar. We believe they are the same group," Tritot said, adding that investigators were trying to determine whether the threat was genuine.

"We believe that Thai people who are opposed to the troop deployment in Iraq are behind this. However, we think they do not have the capacity to carry out what they threaten in the letters."

Thailand is currently deliberating whether to withdraw its 440-strong troop deployment to Iraq due to the deteriorating security situation there.

A Korean airlines representative said security around its operations at Bangkok airport had been stepped up but that services were operating normally.

"The letter threatened terrorist attacks against the airline office in Bangkok, but not against flights," the representative told AFP.

He said Singapore Airlines had also received threats but police said they were only aware of letters to the three airlines and a Singapore Airlines official declined to comment.

Kuwait Airways was immediately able to respond but a Philippine Airlines representative confirmed a letter had been received. "We don't have any idea who is responsible," he said.

The Korean Air official downplayed the warnings, saying he did not believe it was a serious threat.

"I don't think the people behind this letter are really aiming to mount a terrorist attack," he said.

"I think it was done by a group which has lost advantages in Korea and are using the current situation where people are concerned about terrorism for their benefit," he said. *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, April 27, 2004
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 7:51-8:1
Gospel: Jn 6:30-35

They then said, "Show us miraculous signs, that we may see and believe you. What sign do you perform? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert; as Scripture says: They were given bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven. My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. The bread God gives is the One who comes from heaven and gives life to the world." And they said to him, "Give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty."

Commentary

"Moses gave. My Father gives." The meaning of the past is in the present. We are immersed once again in the endless puzzles about time. If the meaning of the past is in the present, did the past have any meaning when it was just the past? Now for a puzzle: the past was never the past! When Moses was perspiring through the desert, he was not living in the past; he was living in a searing present. It is from the perspective of each succeeding present moment that the past is seen as past. So in a sense there never was a past! It is only our way of looking back at it that makes it past.

We are more familiar with this when it regards the future. Tomorrow never comes, we say. No yesterday, no tomorrow. Then where are we? We are in an eternally renewed present moment. Here are some mysterious words from Meister Eckhart. They are difficult to understand; they are worth many a visit, "To be receptive to the highest truth, and to live therein, a person must be without before and after, untrammeled by all his or her acts or by any images ever perceived, empty and free, receiving the divine gift in the eternal Now, and bearing it back unhindered in the light of the same with praise and thanksgiving in our Lord Jesus Christ."

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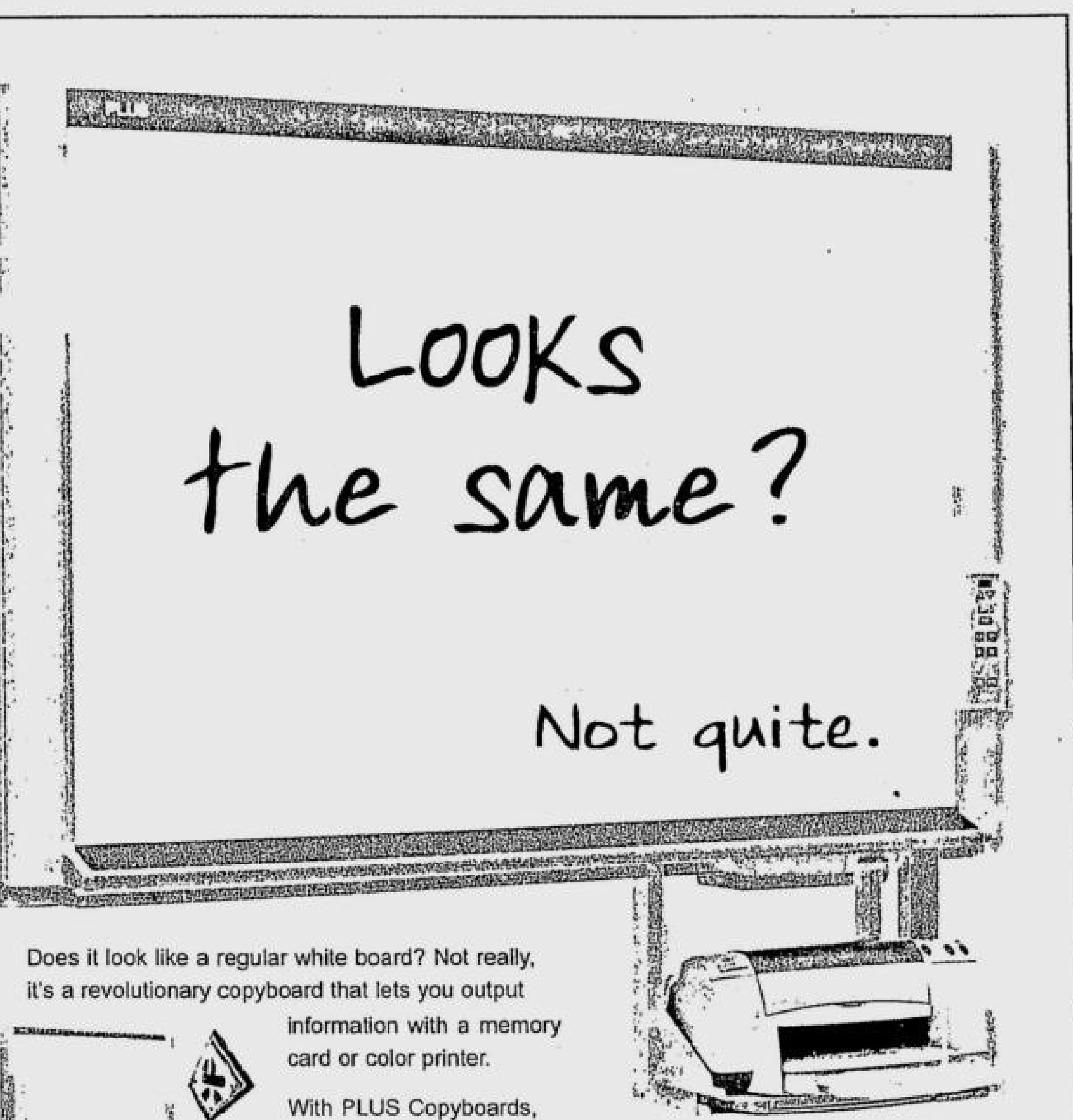

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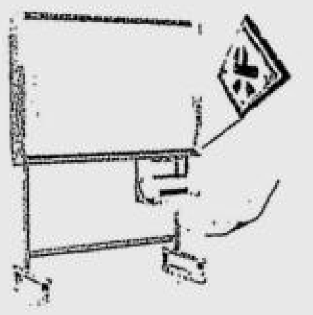

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UNIVERSITY of the Philippines journalism graduate and INQUIRER scholar Jamie Rose Alarcon was awarded the INQUIRER Publisher's Certificate of Excellence for outstanding achievement in academics and leadership during the UP College of Mass Communications graduation rites held last Saturday.

Alarcon received the award from INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, UP Dean Nicanor Tiongson and UP journalism chair Crysta Rara.

Other INQUIRER scholars who graduated were Dewey Joseph Yap, who was cited for having the best thesis, and Charlene Tordesillas.

Commencement speaker former UP professor Cheche Lazaro, producer of The Probe Team, noted that this year's graduating class of 234 members had the most number of honor graduates in the history of the college—11 magna cum laudes and 70 cum laudes.

Lazaro exhorted the graduates "as media practitioners, [to] make a difference, and make your choices," after telling them about the problems of commercialism and corruption in media.

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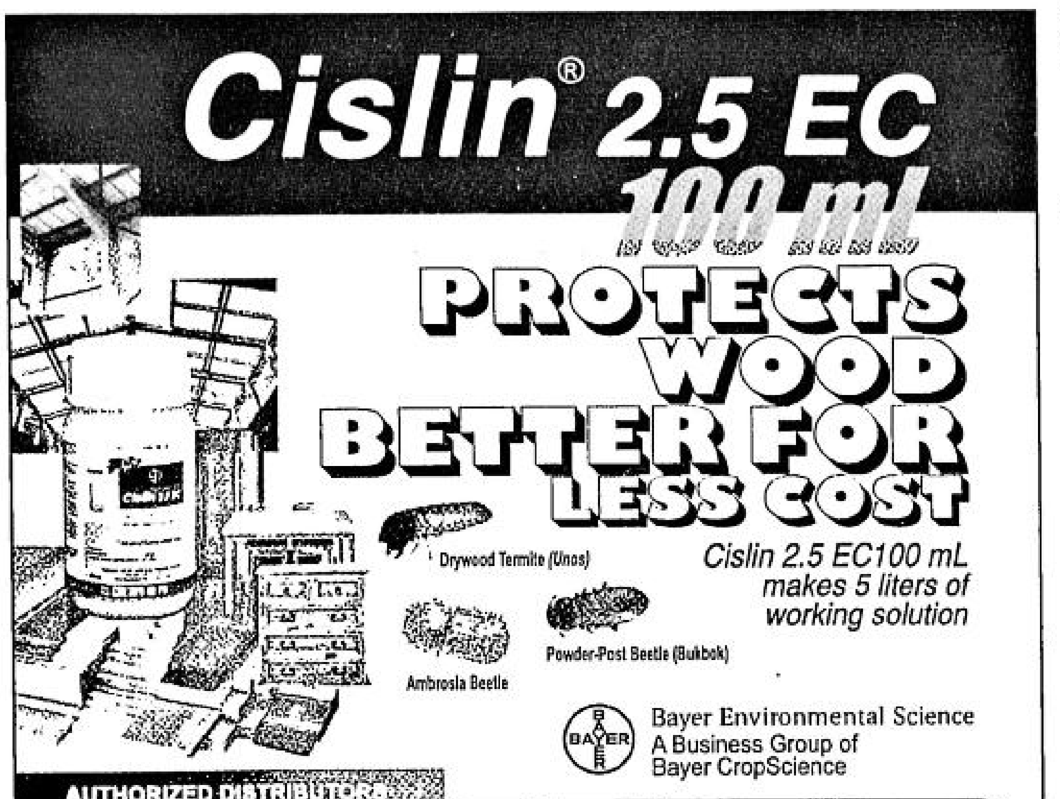
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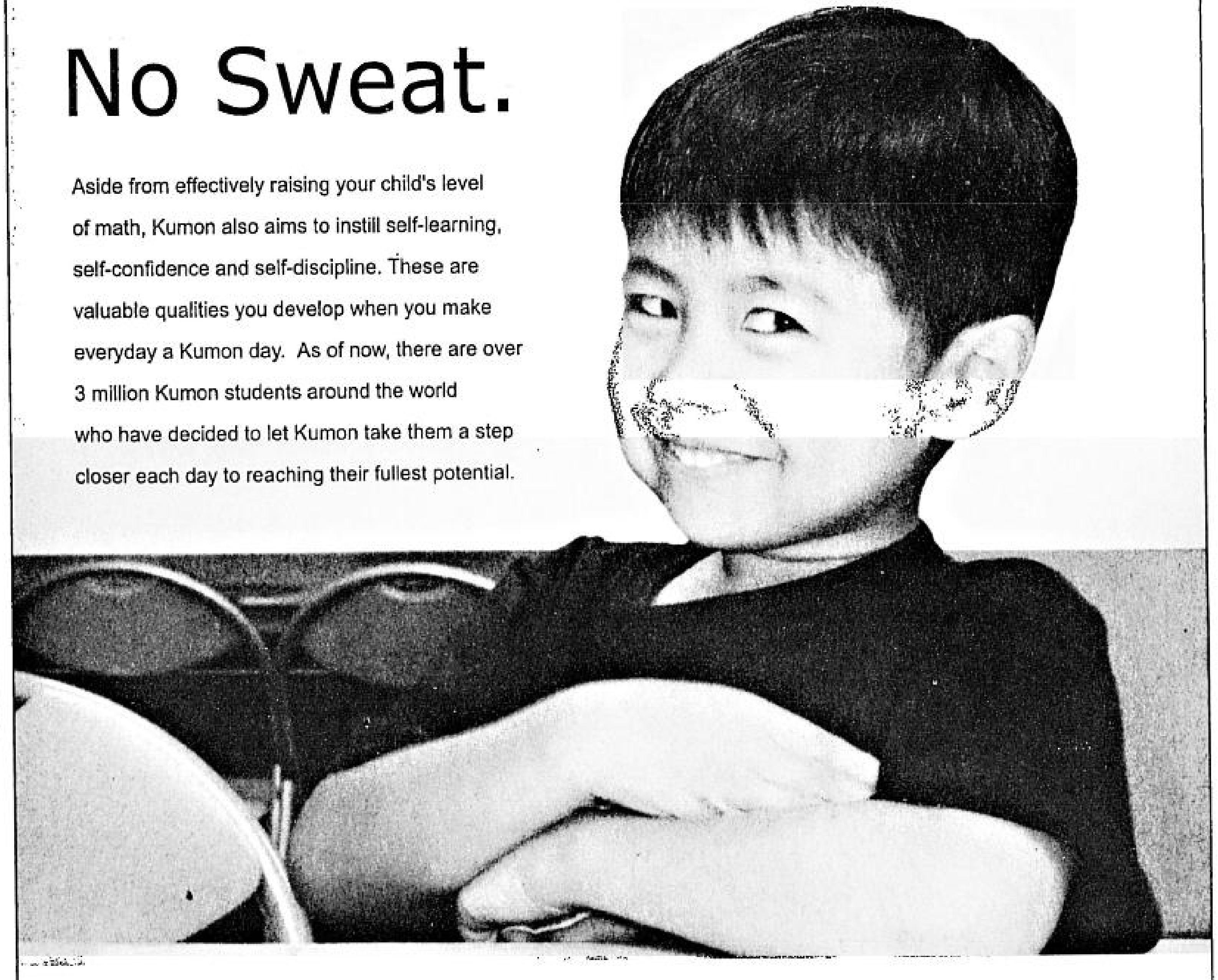

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From page A1

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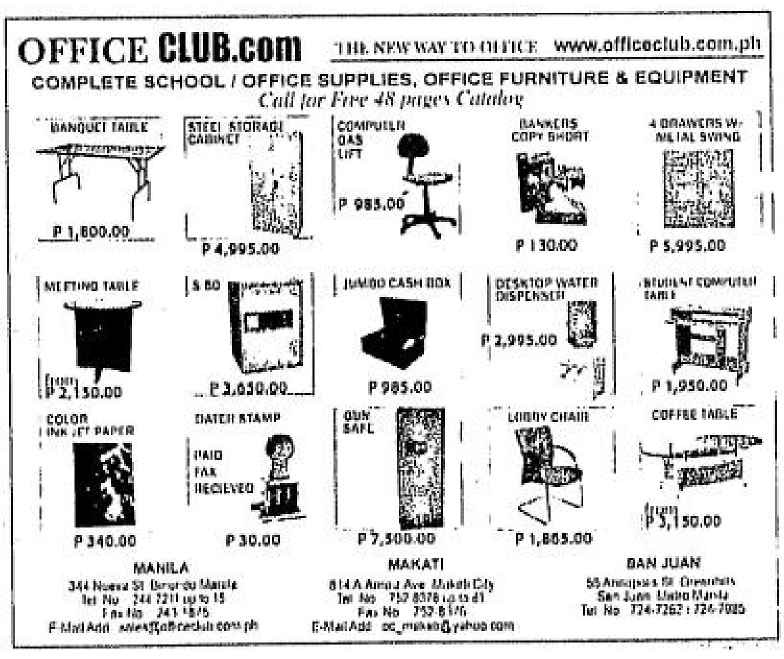
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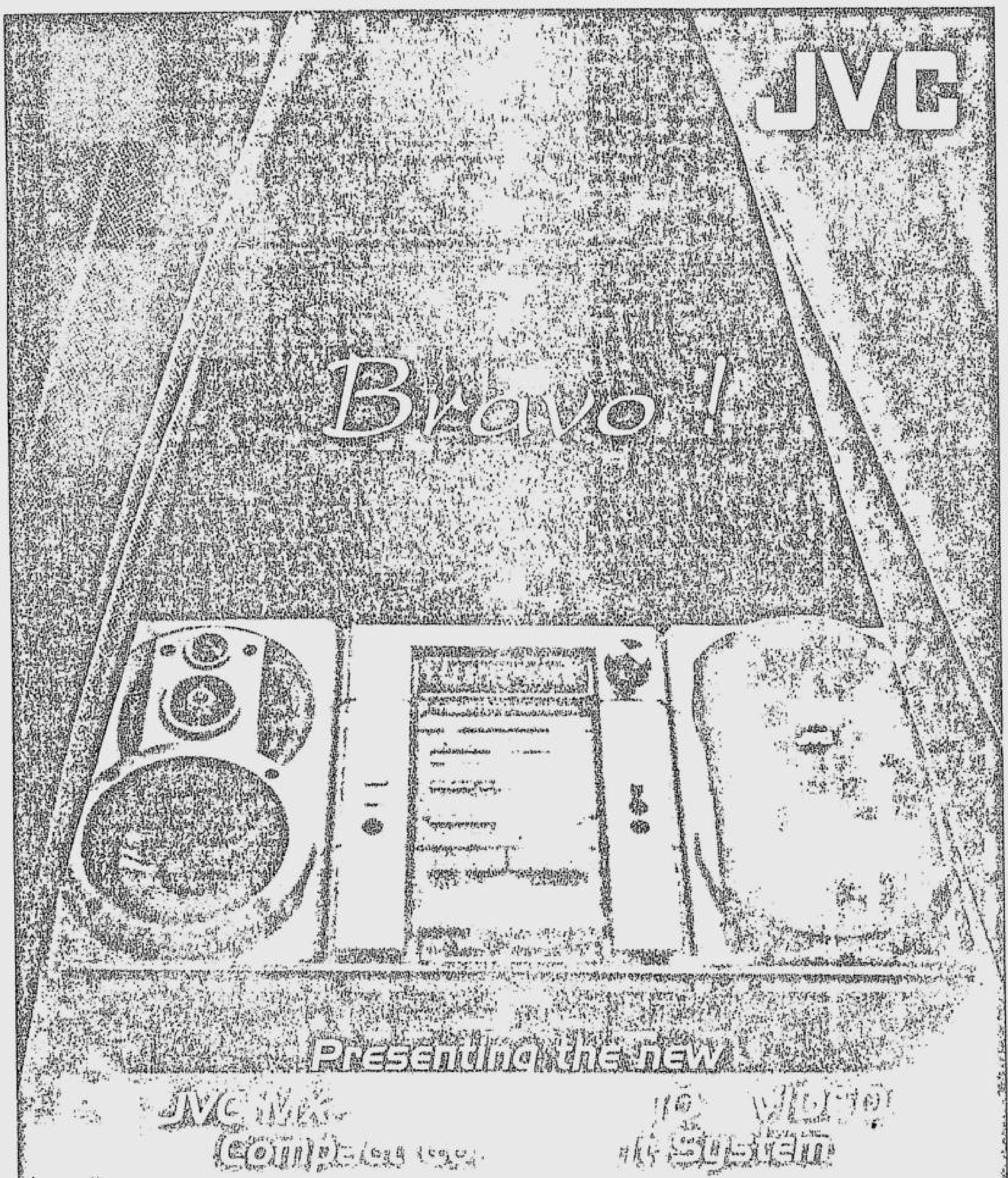

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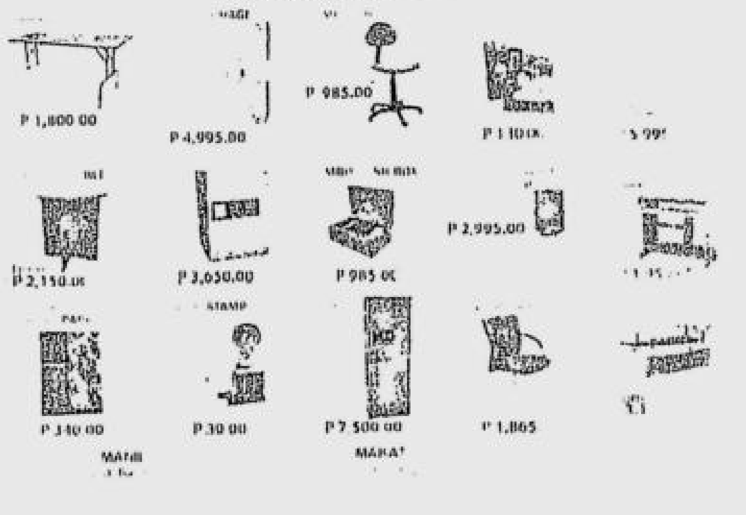

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Palace suspends 'slow to respond' DENR exec

By Volt Contreras

A DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources official has been suspended for six months by Malacañang for not acting quickly enough on a losing bidder's request for information on a security service contract.

But DENR Environment Management Bureau Director Julian Amador was cleared by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission of a more serious graft charge in connection with the same complaint.

The PAGC instead found Amador liable for simple neglect of duty and simple misconduct that led to "unreasonable" delays in the bidding process involving his office.

He was also cited for not responding promptly to the complainant's written inquiries on the progress of the bidding.

In May 2003, Col. Wilfredo de la Cruz (ret.), owner of the Redbird Security Agency which had joined the bidding to provide security services to the EMB, filed graft and other charges against Amador with the PAGC.

De la Cruz charged the EMB awarded the service contract to a rival bidder, Orion Security Agency, at a price "disadvantageous" to the government of P2.4 million a year.

While the PAGC dismissed the graft allegation for lack of evidence, it upheld De la Cruz's other complaints, starting with Amador's failure to issue the notice of award within the 15-day deadline set by public bidding regulations.

The ruling also cited Amador's unauthorized creation of a technical working group to evaluate the bids, and his having "tolerated the inefficiency" of the people he appointed to the bids and awards committee which led to the "protracted procurement process."

Graft raps vs Kokoy revived

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have revived the 24 graft cases dismissed earlier against former Ambassador and Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez in connection with his "failure or refusal" to file statements of assets and liabilities (SAL) during his 24 years in the government service.

The move came six weeks after the Sandiganbayan First Division dismissed the graft charges against the brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos on the basis of a technicality.

In an April 14, 2004 order, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, through Director Raymundo Olaguer and Prosecutor Julieta Zinnia Niduaza, directed Romualdez to file a counter-affidavit explaining why he should not be indicted for graft.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had initially brought Romualdez to court for his "failure or refusal to file" his SAL during the 24 years that he was Leyte provincial governor, from 1962 to 1985.

In dismissing the cases, the Sandiganbayan First Division said the PCGG had no authority to file the graft charges against Romualdez.

The ruling, however, was without prejudice to the re-filing of the cases, subject to a new preliminary investigation this time by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The anti-graft court based its March 1 ruling pursuant to a July 30, 2002 ruling by the Supreme Court which said that the PCGG had no authority to file the cases.

The cases against Romualdez were stalled for more than a decade after the Philippine government refused to allow the Marcos and Romualdez families to return to the country after they were ousted in 1986. *Armand N. Nocum*

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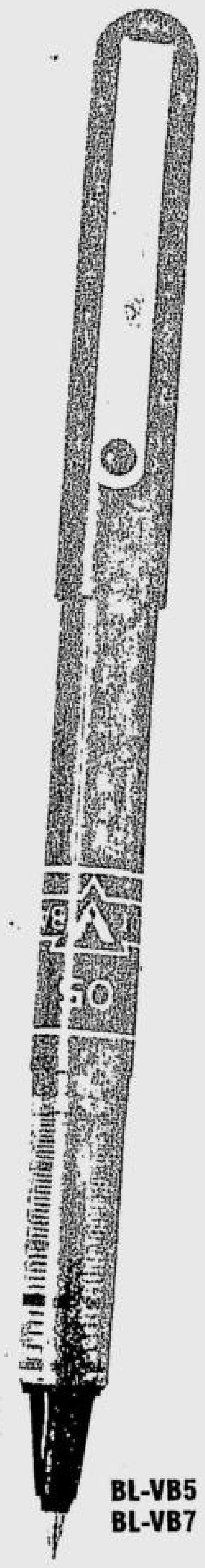
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2 of 4 terror suspects admit JI links, says AFP

From page A1

gets in the South as part of their terror campaign, and rejected demands by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for their release.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, said two of the men admitted during interrogation that they were connected with Taufiq Rifqi, an Indonesian arrested last year on suspicion of handling finances for JI operatives and organizing explosives training in the Philippines.

The MILF, the main Moro separatist group in the country, said the four suspects were its members and might have been tortured into confessing to terrorist activities.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the group would demand that a committee of government and rebel representatives investigate the military's allegations.

MILF warns

Kabalu also said peace talks with the government to end a three-decade-long Moro insurgency could be undermined if the MILF members were mistreated.

Garcia said the suspects allegedly confessed to linking up with the JI "because the MILF no longer wants to practice terrorism."

He told dzRH radio that their activities might not have been sanctioned by the MILF leadership, which has renounced terrorism and denied links to foreign terror groups.

Intelligence agencies said the JI, allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden's network, had been engaged in bombing campaigns as part of its plan to set up a pan-Islamic state in Southeast Asia.

It has been blamed for the October 2002 bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, which killed 202 people, and other attacks across the region.

Explosives cache

Garcia, who represents the government in a ceasefire committee with the MILF, said he would wait for the guerrillas to file a complaint of mistreatment before discussing with the rebel group allegations against the suspects.

Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, head of the military's Southern Command, said troops found a cache of mortar shells, rocket-propelled grenades and other bomb materials in a safe house pointed to by the suspects.

He said the suspects allegedly confessed to involvement in the January gymnasium bombing that killed five people and wounded 36 others, including Mayor Vivencio Bataga of southern Parang town.

They also reportedly admitted to a blast that killed a soldier outside an airport in southern Awang town in February 2003.

Kyamko also claimed they had plotted other attacks but were hampered by strict security.

Datu Puti Ungka, one of the four suspects, admitted in a talk with reporters in Davao City last weekend that he took part in the Jan. 4 ambush of Bataga.

In the group's other operations, he said his job was only to assist in making improvised explosives in their hideout in Cotabato City.

The military identified the other suspects as Sammy Abdulgani, alias Boy and Abu, the alleged leader of the group; Montasser Ismael and Badruddin Balungan.

Abdulgani, Ismael and Ungka were arrested at a checkpoint in Barangay Taviran, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, on Friday afternoon, while Balungan was nabbed a few hours later in their alleged safe house in Cotabato City, where various components to make bombs were recovered.

The four were presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sunday.

But Ungka, 23, claimed that in joining the group, he had no idea that he had joined the JI. He said Abdulgani was the one who recruited him in 2001 but he was never told what the group's name was.

He said he and some of his companions had no proper training in making bombs.

More attacks planned

He added that Abdulgani and a certain Indonesian named Amy were the ones who lectured on the basics of explosives manufacturing.

Kyamko said the four suspects, during tactical interrogation, revealed that there were plans to launch more attacks in Mindanao.

"We have to be vigilant and we are looking now for the others (suspected JI members)," Kyamko said.

In Ozamiz City, some 500 kilos of ammonium nitrate were intercepted by authorities in the city's port area on April 22.

The cargo's owner, Rey Totor, said the chemicals would be used as fertilizer.

"But we would like to determine exactly the nature of the business transaction because this chemical is one vital component for an improvised explosive device," Kyamko said.

Ms Macapagal said she had directed government negotiators to "lay the evidence before the MILF regarding the arrest of the four suspected terrorists.

"The peace process must go hand in hand with the anti-terrorism campaign to box out terrorists and deny them sanctuary," she said in a statement.

Military rejects demand

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said the Armed Forces had sufficient evidence 'to prove its case against the suspected terrorists.

"The AFP will exert all efforts to make sure that they'll pay for their crimes," he told reporters.

Lt. Col. Renoir Pascua, Southern Command information officer, said in a radio interview that Kabalu's admission that the suspects were MILF members might prove that the group was indeed involved in terrorist activities. Lucero sounded a bit more cautious, saying the MILF was not a "homogenous group that has full control over all of its members.

"There are some groups that are not supportive of the ongoing peace negotiations," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Anthony S. Allada and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pro-Lacson 'respondent' doubts poll

From page A1

themselves as Pulse Asia field interviewers, approached him at an Ayala Center coffee shop and asked him if he could answer questions on his choices for the coming elections.

"I asked them why there were only two names on the choices for President? I was surprised because I was for Ping Lacson and his name wasn't there," Matugas said yesterday at a news conference at the Lacson campaign headquarters.

Matugas executed an affidavit to support his claim and wrote Pulse Asia research director Felipe Miranda about the conduct of the two interviewers.

"The one who conducted the survey told me that their survey firm only had two presidential candidates considered: Madame Gloria [Ms Macapagal] as standard-bearer for the administration and FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.) for the opposition," he said.

Matugas said that in the absence of Lacson's name on the questionnaire, he ticked off the space for Poe.

But Ross Villamil, executive assistant to the president of Pulse Asia, said the allegation was wrong on two counts.

First, Villamil said Pulse Asia interviewers did not conduct interviews in malls. "Our interviewers go from house to house. And those to be interviewed are registered voter members of households."

Villamil said that Matugas could not have been a respondent. If he were, he would not know it. As standard operating practice, field interviewers do not introduce themselves as being from Pulse Asia, according to Villamil.

Asked why he was coming out with Matugas' information, Lacson said: "For the other (respondents) to follow. I know that there are many who've experienced the same with interviewers."

"This is why I've been lagging in the surveys. Pulse Asia and SWS have clearly sold out," Lacson said in an interview later. "The only question is for how much they sold their souls."

Bangon

The Bangon Pilipinas party said its standard-bearer, evangelist Eduardo Villanueva, was also a victim of the surveys. It is preparing to present two supporters who would testify that the surveys did not include the name of Villanueva.

Jovie Galaraga, chair of Bangon's screening committee, was set to meet today with a supporter in Quezon City and another in Cavite who had informed the party that they did not find Villanueva's náme on the list of presidential candidates during a survey.

Lacson's political strategist Angelito Banayo said Matugas volunteered his information to the Lacson camp when the opposition senator was in Cebu City on Friday.

"What we have always been saying is that these surveys do not reflect the conditions on the ground," Banayo said.

Lacson's campaign teams have gone around the country and have been told by the people that "Lacson is the first choice, Poe is second, and GMA is a far third," Banayo said.

"Except for [a few places], we don't see the [results of the surveys] on the ground. Let [the organizations] explain this because their reputation is at stake," he said.

Coffee shop

Banayo said Matugas was the grandson of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino gubernatorial candidate in Surigao del Norte.

"We were in the coffee shop of the Waterfront Hotel when he approached us with regard to the information," Lacson said.

Lacson's lone senatorial candidate, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, said the Lacson camp was questioning the integrity and credibility of both Pulse Asia and SWS.

"No integrity," Padilla said of the findings by the polling firms that consistently showed Ms Macapagal and Poe leading all candidates.

Also present at the news conference were husband and wife Terry and Evangeline Lim of San Juan.

In her own press conference earlier organized by the Lacson camp, Evangeline said she heard SWS interviewers say that their findings did not reflect what eventually would come out as results after data had been gathered and processed.

SWS list

Following reports that her name did not appear on the roll of respondents of SWS, her husband said it was his name that they gave the SWS interviewer.

"[The surveyors] said that it was all right since we were husband and wife anyway," Evangeline said.

Terry, for his part, presented an acknowledgment form signed by a certain Jeanna Tayag on Jan. 24. Tayag's form was from NFO Trends, the group that conducts the interviews for both SWS and Pulse Asia.

Until Alyansa ng Pag-asa candidate Raul Roco took a leave from the campaign, Lacson had always been in fourth place in both Pulse Asia and SWS surveys.

"Survey firms have long influenced the choice of the people," Banayo said. "It's fooling the people."

He said Pulse Asia and SWS should answer the serious allegations. "It's a challenge to their integrity and credibility," he said.

SWS said it had not interviewed Evangeline Lim.

In its April 14, 2004 media release, Evangeline, the San Juan resident who claimed that an SWS field worker showed political bias when asking her voting preference in January, was not among those interviewed by NFO Trends, according to SWS.

NFO Trends said its records showed that Evangeline was not one of the five persons interviewed in San Juan for the SWS survey on Jan. 16-22.

In a report sent to SWS on April 12, NFO Trends said the area randomly picked for the San Juan interviews, namely Addition Hills, was 100 percent spot-checked after the survey, and all five respondents were verified as having received the SWS thank-you card, with the respondent's name, the interviewer's name, and the interview date.

Thank-you card

SWS pointed out that Evangeline did not produce an SWS thank-you card as evidence of being approached by an $WS interviewer.

SWS said it produced its own thank-you cards, which are color-coded for each survey project, and supplied them only to genuine interviewers, both in-house and contracted. The cards have the contact phone numbers of both SWS and NFO Trends

SWS urged the public to verify alleged SWS survey interviewers by contacting NFO-Trends at telephone numbers 435-8488, 435-8485, 435-8489 or 435-8426; or SWS, 924-4456, 924-4458, 924-4465, or 926-4308; email: projects@sws.org.ph. *With reports from Minerva Generalao, PDI Research and Blanche S. Rivera*

No wage hike . . .

From page A1

March 26, the labor secretary said.

"None that I know of. She also cannot give away benefits because the election law prohibits the grant of any perks, benefits or privileges to workers," Sto. Tomas said when asked if Ms Macapagal would make an announcement on Labor Day.

At the press conference, representatives of the Department of Labor and Employment forged agreements with cell phone company Globe Telecoms, the Light Rail and Metro Rail transport systems, and the Philippine Basketball Association.

Under the agreement, Globe will not provide free calls for overseas workers, just streamers and banners in Davao, Cebu, Laguna and Metro Manila.

Workers, burdened by the high cost of living, have been pushing for an increase in the daily minimum wage, ranging from P65 to P125. For their part, government employees are pushing for a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase.

Sto. Tomas said that the practice of granting workers wage increases went out of fashion together with martial law, and that the task of granting wage increases was now with the wage and productivity boards.

For public employees, Sto. Tomas said the government was committed to include the 10-percent salary increase, equivalent to P20 billion, in the General Appropriations Act next year. She said government workers should get a raise because the last one they got was in 2001.

Asked about the P3,000 across-the-board salary increase being sought by militant government employees' group, Sto. Tomas said that this would mean an outlay of P60 billion. She said she did not know how the government could raise that amount.

Teachers

A group of public school teachers has joined the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) in demanding a P3,000 across-the-board salary increase.

Antonio Tinio, president of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), said the last government salary increase of 5 percent was approved during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada. The increase was given after Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency.

"She has since raised the salaries of the police and the military. But Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has not given any wage increase to civilian government workers," Tinio said.

He said the majority of public teachers were getting a gross monthly salary of P9,939, which is the entry-level salary.

The amount falls far below the official "living wage" of P16,000 for a family of six in Metro Manila, Tinio said.

The government employs about 450,000 teachers.

The ACT would join other government employees under Courage at its Labor Day rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Tinio said his group was supporting the wage increase demand of workers in the private sector.

The Broad Alliance for Wage Increase (Bawi) and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) want the daily minimum wage increased by P65 and P75, respectively. The Kilusang Mayo Uno, on the other hand, wants a P125 across-the-board increase in the daily wage.

Whether under this administration or the next, workers would push for the P65 wage increase and a package of economic relief, Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said.

He said workers could no longer afford even the basic necessities. Citing government data, Fortaleza said the purchasing power of the peso had weakened to only P0.57, or about half of what it could buy in 1994.

Sanlakas is asking for an economic recovery package, which includes a moratorium on tuition, power, oil and water rate hike, discount stores in depressed urban and rural areas, and a reduction in interest rates on monthly amortizations for government housing to 6 percent.

Citing the 2000 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Fortaleza said that Filipino families were spending more on utilities such as light, water, transportation and communication, fuel and education. He noted that the net take-home pay of 40 percent of government workers was a meager P4,500 to P8,000.

Picket

About 100 labor leaders from the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Makabayan) chapter in six Central Luzon provinces picketed the DOLE regional office in San Fernando City on Monday to demand a P65 wage increase before the May 10 elections.

Makabayan leaders made the wage hike an electoral issue as their spokesperson, Emily Fajardo, warned that Ms Macapagal's bid for a full term would be "in peril unless she unconditionally and immediately gives our demand."

Fajardo said the supposed electioneering of Ms Macapagal—her claim of competitive wage rates while workers in economic zones actually get only P160 daily—would be "her downfall for workers are fed up with her continued empty promises."

Makabayan, a member of Bawi, sought to get the amount from the implementation of Wage Order No. 9, which approved the P30 emergency cost-of-living allowance in 2001, and an additional increase of P35 to cover the eroded value of the peso due to inflation, and transport and fuel rate hikes since November 2001.

Fajardo said some 200,000 workers at the Bataan Export Zone, Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and smaller industrial zones in the region were going through "exploitative capitalist schemes," such as overtime work, emergency hiring and contractualization.

"We are being kept as slave workers, enduring 12 to 16 hours of work for a meager P160 take-home pay," she told reporters.

Corazon Requiso of the women's group Kaisa Ka said about 80 percent of ecozone workers were women, employed mostly in garments and electronics factories, and call centers. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Blanche S. Rivera*

Candidates' surveys . . .

From page A1

lanueva, 5.2 percent.

Bolstered by her high ratings, Ms Macapagal said she was now shooting for the "highest mandate" in the May 10 polls.

"I need the highest mandate I can get under the most credible electoral process. I ask the people to give me this mandate and to see to it that the voting is clean, honest and orderly," she said in a statement.

Later, the President told a small group of party-list representatives and civil society advocates in Malacañang: "It looks like we will win. The only thing that needs to be done is to make the elections credible."

This was the first time that Ms Macapagal boldly declared that she could win the election by a big margin. Previously, she accepted the pundits' view that the May polls would be a close contest, with the winner having a narrow margin over the next biggest vote-getter.

Battle of surveys

Branding as a "lie" the survey results of a private polling firm that showed Ms Macapagal leading her rivals, the camp of actor Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday said it would release next week a "compilation of surveys" it had commissioned to show the people the "truth" on who was leading on the ground.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Poe's personal campaign manager, said the polling group being used by the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) was more accurate as it covered 6,000 respondents, all regions and cities in the country for the last seven weeks.

It will show who is leading not only in the presidential, vice presidential and senatorial races but also in the local races, Sotto added.

Sotto said Poe led the survey for the presidential candidates and Raul Roco was second in some areas. "This is better than the other surveys," he said in a phone interview.

He said the finding of NFO Trends that Ms Macapagal was leading Poe by 10 percentage points was a lie. "You don't see this on the ground," he said.

Inadequate information

At a forum yesterday, IPC director Dr. Filomeno Aguilar Jr. noted that FGD participants, gathered from depressed local communities, ranked surveys as the least influential factor when they select candidates.

The media are still the most influential despite being "inadequate" in providing information about the candidates, followed by family members, the Church as represented by the local parish priest, and political parties as represented by the barangay chair.

Many voters who were approached to become FGD participants were in fact reluctant to do so because they thought the IPC study was another form of survey, which to them had become a form of "exploitation," Aguilar said.

This aversion to surveys apparently stemmed from the fact that the poor tended to regard elections as a game, a gamble or, "for those in the rural areas, a cockfight" where the winner cannot be predetermined, according to the study.

"There are in general two main reasons for the relative unimportance of surveys," the study said.

"The first is that surveys are distrusted. The other reason pertains to the conviction that voters will choose candidates according to their criteria, and will not allow themselves to be swayed by statistics," it added.

Many FGD participants insisted that they would vote for candidates "based on qualifications and track record, regardless of what the surveys say."

"The relative unimportance of surveys among the poor raises the question: Are surveys significant primarily to the middle and upper classes?" the study said.

Ate Glo surprises . . .

From page A1

and avid backer of former President Joseph Estrada. She publicly denounced him a few days before the former actor was ousted from office via Edsa II.

Thus the program proceeded until finally, the star of the show called on the other star: "We are facing very serious problems and we need a serious person to handle them. And that person is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo!"

Ms Macapagal then joined Aunor onstage where they hugged and bussed one another, waved to the audience, posed for photographs, and at last sang a rousing duet—not "Let Me Try Again" but "Together Again," a 1970s hit by Guy and Pip, the love team of Aunor and Tirso Cruz III.

A press release on the event issued by the President's K-4 coalition was a veritable reminder of how she had capitalized on her resemblance to the multi-awarded singer-actress to win the vice-presidency by a landslide in 1998.

The statement said Ms Macapagal and Aunor "counted long years of friendship, borne out of the fact that they share the same diminutiveness, facial resemblance and mass appeal."

Iraq oil exports resume after blasts

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And as the leaders of Australia and Bulgaria made unannounced visits to their troops in Iraq, the motorcade carrying Bulgarian President Georgy Parvanov came under fire, Bulgaria's BTA news agency reported.

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And UN sources in Amman confirmed that Fallujah elders had appealed to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to intervene to maintain the truce.

"We have met with UN officials at the Amman office of the UN special envoy, Ross Mountain, and given them a message for the UN secretary general asking for his mediation," said Mohammad Tarik Abdullah, a spokesperson for the city council.

Local Iraqi opinion suggested meanwhile that the ceasefire brokered by Iraqi mediators in Fallujah was weakening the rebels battling US marines and creating divisions within the Sunni Muslim community. *AFP*

N. Korea stuns S. Korea with rejection of aid

SEOUL—North Korea stunned South Korea Monday by rejecting a Seoul offer to send emergency aid for train blast victims directly through the tense inter-Korean border.

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"The North's rejection was made during a border contact between liaison officials of Red Cross authorities from both sides. North Korea did not elaborate on the reason."

The border between the two Koreas is the world's most heavily fortified frontier, dividing some 600,000 South Korean troops from North Korea's 1.1 million-strong army.

North Korea's decision surprised South Koreans who have been mobilized by feelings of brotherly compassion to stage a major relief effort for disaster victims in the Stalinist state.

"We do not know the exact reason, but we just presume that North Korea might be concerned about security issues involved in allowing cross-border transportation," a Unification Ministry official who declined to be named said.

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The Red Cross spokesperson said the refusal by North Korea may not be the final word.

North Korea has asked for a meeting of Red Cross officials from the two sides to discuss "technical details" of the proposed transportation at the town of Kaesong, just over the border inside North Korea, on Tuesday.

South Korea has pledged $1 million worth of disaster aid for Ryongchong and acting president Goh Kun earlier Monday called for swift deployment of the aid. *AFP*

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The latest ruling would likely push back any hope for universal suffrage in Hong Kong until the five-year term of the chief executive chosen in 2007 runs its full course by 2012, Hong Kong officials in Beijing said.

Sensing that the ruling would anger local democrats, Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa immediately urged the public to be "rational and calm."

"The general public need to be rational and calm in response to China's decision," Tung told reporters after news of China's decision. *AFP*

Business is booming, the cities are expanding, and the people are growing in number

... FAST! ***How do we cope? How do we handle the challenges posed by urbanization and rapid population growth?***

The leading political parties and business leaders of the Province of Cavite will answer these questions and present their stand on population management and family planning at the —

Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development

Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park
Covelandia Road, Kawit, Cavite
April 27, 2004
Hosted by the **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. - Cavite**
under the auspices of the **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

The business leaders will present their position. The leaders of the major political parties, some of whom may be the next government officials, will reveal their plans, and answer these questions:

- If elected, will your policy include the provision of family planning information and services?
- Will your administration make the whole array of modern and natural family planning methods available to your constituents?
- Will you be setting aside a budget for the local procurement of contraceptives?
- What position will population management and human development take in your local development program?

Population and family planning -- important electoral issues that political parties vying for top local government and congressional posts in the coming May 10 elections must address.

- Family planning in the workplace
- Urban congestion
- Rapid in-migration
- Need to expand basic services
- Upgrading labor force skills
- Poverty
- And other issues arising from rapid population growth.

Some 300 business leaders from the province will tackle these issues at the forum. A panel of reactors composed of representatives of the business community, labor, the banking sector and civic organizations will pose some very challenging questions.

PCCI -- Advocating Population Management

PCCI is spearheading the Convergence forums. Its leaders and members realize that the country's rapid population growth is holding back the growth of the economy, undermining the very resources that fuel the nation's advancement, and is nullifying all the efforts that the business community is taking to push the country ahead. The population is growing too fast, and incurring nutritional, educational, health, environmental, financial, infrastructural, resource and service needs too fast for the economy to keep pace with.

The Convergence forums -- part of PCCI's growing advocacy for population management and family planning — a brand of advocacy focused on the formulation of an explicit and effective population policy that is pro-poor, pro-environment, and pro-development to slow down the country's runaway population growth.

Cavite: Lively Scene of Growth and Change

Cavite, the site of the April 27 forum -- a micro representation of the gains being made by the country in the global market. Population close to 2 million. Industrial establishments sprouting all over the province, particularly in areas accessible to Metro Manila.

The business climate is upbeat. The Cavite Export Processing Zone and other industrial parks produce goods for the world market and create employment opportunities. The construction business is brisk. When the reclamation project in Bacoor Bay is completed, more activity is expected.

More and more people are coming to Cavite to partake of the boom of opportunity. But the change is much too fast for this once very rural place of vast coconut plantations and breezy coastlines. With the influx of people and the growth of industries came a shortage of basic services, urban congestion and pollution, lowered standards of living and poverty, and a growing proportion of the labor force unprepared for the technological requirements of globalization.

Cavite, now experiencing the problems concomitant to a growing population, faces the challenge of managing the growth of its population, improving the health and productivity of its workers, and priming its resources for the big business' objective of becoming competitive in the global arena.

These are just some of the many issues to be openly and boldly discussed by politicians and business leaders at the

Cavite Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development.

For inquiries, contact:
The Secretariat
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. – Cavite
Tel. no. (046) 8702999/4173906
(Edna or Jercy)

The population clock is ticking...

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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The business leaders will present their position. The leaders of the major political parties, some of whom may be the next government officials, will reveal their plans, and answer these questions:

- If elected, will your policy include the provision of family planning information and services?
- Will your administration make the whole array of modern and natural family planning methods available to your constituents?
- Will you be setting aside a budget for the local procurement of contraceptives?
- What position will population management and human development take in your local development program?

Population and family planning -- important electoral issues that political parties vying for top local government and congressional posts in the coming May 10 elections must address.

- Family planning in the workplace
- Urban congestion
- Rapid in-migration
- Need to expand basic services
- Upgrading labor force skills
- Poverty
- And other issues arising from rapid population growth

Some 300 business leaders from the province will tackle these issues at the forum. A panel of reactors composed of representatives of the business community, labor, the banking sector and civic organizations will pose some very challenging questions.

PCCI -- Advocating Population Management

PCCI is spearheading the Convergence forums. Its leaders and members realize that the country's rapid population growth is holding back the growth of the economy, undermining the very resources that fuel the nation's advancement, and is nullifying all the efforts that the business community is taking to push the country ahead. The population is growing too fast, and incurring nutritional, educational, health, environmental, financial, infrastructural, resource and service needs too fast for the economy to keep pace with.

The Convergence forums -- part of PCCI's growing advocacy for population management and family planning - a brand of advocacy focused on the formulation of an explicit and effective population policy that is pro-poor, pro-environment, and pro-development to slow down the country's runaway population growth.

Cavite: Lively Scene of Growth and Change

Cavite, the site of the April 27 forum -- a micro representation of the gains being made by the country in the global market. Population close to 2 million. Industrial establishments sprouting all over the province, particularly in areas accessible to Metro Manila.

The business climate is upbeat. The Cavite Export Processing Zone and other industrial parks produce goods for the world market and create employment opportunities. The construction business is brisk. When the reclamation project in Bacoor Bay is completed, more activity is expected.

More and more people are coming to Cavite to partake of the boom of opportunity. But the change is much too fast for this once very rural place of vast coconut plantations and breezy coastlines. With the influx of people and the growth of industries came a shortage of basic services, urban congestion and pollution, lowered standards of living and poverty, and a growing proportion of the labor force unprepared for the technological requirements of globalization.

Cavite, now experiencing the problems concomitant to a growing population, faces the challenge of managing the growth of its population, improving the health and productivity of its workers, and priming its resources for the big business' objective of becoming competitive in the global arena.

These are just some of the many issues to be openly and boldly discussed by politicians and business leaders at the

Cavite Business-and-Politics Convergence in Population and Development.

For inquiries, contact:
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Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. - Cavite
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(Edna or Jercy)

The population clock is ticking...

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WHO: China SARS scare could become an epidemic

MANILA—China's latest SARS outbreak is not yet a serious threat to public health but the disease may have spread widely through the country's rail network, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday.

The WHO is concerned that the outbreak—so far limited to two confirmed cases and six suspected—could turn into an epidemic because the index patient, a medical researcher, had taken a long train journey after contracting the disease.

"Because of the long train journey it is not so easy to trace all of the possible contacts," WHO Western Pacific regional director Shigeru Omi told a news conference here.

"From our experience with SARS last year we know hospitals have a tendency to amplify the infection."

But he added: "We do not see this yet as a serious public health threat."

Omi noted that millions of Chinese will be on the move throughout the country and abroad during a national holiday next month.

Chinese authorities say the researcher at a Beijing medical center contracted SARS at the laboratory and infected a nurse who took care of her at a Beijing hospital.

The researcher's mother has since died, while the nurse's relatives and contacts have also gone down with symptoms of the disease.

Omi criticized the laboratory's safeguards and said the authorities did not know yet whether any foreigners had been carrying out medical research in the facility and since left the country.

Laboratory safety "is a serious issue that has to be addressed," he said.

"We have to remain very vigilant," he added.

However, he said China's SARS surveillance system was working well and "all identified suspected cases have already been isolated."

He also praised Beijing for its prompt sharing of the information to the WHO, which he said stood in "stark contrast" to how it acted during the original outbreak, which was not admitted for several months.

The WHO is sending a team to China to investigate "how this (laboratory infection) happened." *AFP*

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

To All Stockholders:

Due to financial constraints, **VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.,** shall no longer engage **Joaquin Cunanan & Co.** as members of the Board of Election Inspectors for **VMC's Annual Stockholders' Meeting on 30 April 2004**. Instead, the two (2) seats in the Board of Election Inspectors previously assigned to Joaquin Cunanan & Co. shall be occupied by representatives from the auditing firm of **C.L. Manabat & Co.**

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Sharon threats against Arafat draw censure

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's threats against Yasser Arafat continued to cause shock waves Sunday, although several ministers said no attempt would be made on the veteran Palestinian leader's life right away.

An Israeli was meanwhile killed in the West Bank and two others wounded in a revenge attack by Palestinian militants as the Jewish state went on high alert on the eve of its annual Independence Day holiday.

"We have mobilized all our forces to make sure the Israeli people feel secure" for the anniversary, police chief Shlomo Aharonishki told journalists ahead of the commemoration of Israel's war dead from 7:30 p.m.

An armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement said it carried out the shooting in the name of slain Hamas leader Abdelaziz al-Rantissi.

Palestinian militant groups from across the political spectrum had vowed to avenge Israel's April 17 killing of Rantissi, and another air raid which killed his predecessor Sheikh Ahmed Yassin one month earlier.

The Islamic militant group Hamas threatened to unleash a "volcano" of attacks following Israel's assassination of both Yassin and Rantissi.

Tensions have been raised by Sharon's renewed threat against Arafat.

Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qorei called the threats "dangerous and frightening," as he arrived in Cairo for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

"Like every Palestinian militant, Yasser Arafat knows that his life is in no way assured, but an adversary has no right to threaten the life of an elected president as Sharon has done," he said.

Mubarak earlier addressed an "urgent" message to US President George W. Bush over the threat, the state Mena news agency said.

The right-wing Israeli leader last week informed Bush he.was "no longer bound" by his promise three years ago not to attack Arafat for his alleged backing of "terrorists." *AFP*

Cosmetics queen Estee Lauder; 97

NEW YORK—Estee Lauder, who started a kitchen business blending face creams and built it into a multimillion-dollar international cosmetics empire, has died. She was 97.

Lauder died of cardiopulmonary arrest late Saturday at her home in Manhattan, said Sally Susman, a company spokesperson.

In 1998, Lauder was the only woman on Time magazine's list of the 20 most influential business geniuses of the century. Her company placed No. 349 in the 2003 ranking in the Fortune 500 list of the nation's largest companies, with revenue at $4.744 billion.

LAUDER

In explaining her success, the cosmetics queen once said: "I have never worked a day in my life without selling. If I believe in something, I sell it, and I sell it hard."

Lauder sold her products primarily through department stores—Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's, Marshall Field's, Neiman-Marcus, Harrods in London, Galeries Lafayette in Paris—the tonier the better.

"Beauty is an attitude," she once said. "There's no secret. Why are all brides beautiful? Because on their wedding day they care about how they look. There are no ugly women—only women who don't care or who don't believe they're attractive."

The company's product lines have included Estee Lauder, Clinique, Aramis, Prescriptives and Origins.

A favorite selling tool has been offering a gift with a purchase—a giveaway that began out of necessity. Lauder started off without enough of an advertising budget to attract an agency, so she used the money instead for free samples.

She also courted the rich and famous.

"I don't know her very well, but she keeps sending all these things," said Princess Grace of Monaco, who became a friend. *AP*

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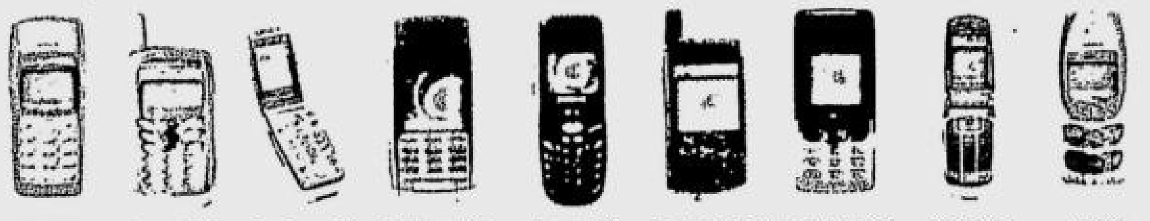
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Turkish Cypriots want sanctions lifted after vote

KYRENIA, Cyprus—Far from despairing at their Greek rivals' rejection of reunification, Turkish Cypriots felt they had won the moral high ground Sunday by backing a UN peace peace deal and deserved to be rewarded with a lifting of economic sanctions.

The majority community voted by three to one in a referendum Saturday against the UN-proposed reunification deal and will now enter the European Union alone on May 1.

But Turkish Cypriots, who voted by 65 percent to 35 in favor of reunification, said the international community should now lift the economic embargo which has hobbled their breakaway state's economy for the past 30 years.

"It is the victory of the people," the Kibrisli daily trumpeted Sunday on its front page, while the Vatan newspaper said: "It is now the turn of the international community" to help.

"Many people voted 'yes' not because they liked the plan, but out of frustration with the international isolation," Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said following the vote.

Denktash, a hardline nationalist who led the campaign for the "no" vote in his self-styled Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, immediately called for the lifting of the embargo imposed because of his territory's secession.

"It is time now for the world to allow us to trade and communicate as free people and to help us repair our economy," Denktash said.

"We abided by our commitments. It is now the turn of the international community to prepare proposals... to alleviate or remove the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots," said Mehmet Ali Talat, the breakaway state's pro-settlement prime minister.

Speaking in Ankara, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, whose government forced Denktash to agree to the referendum in a bid to boost its own chances of joining the European bloc, also called for the lifting of sanctions.

"The embargoes... cannot continue," he said.

The EU's executive arm said Turkish Cypriot approval of the plan "signals a clear desire of the community to resolve the island's problems." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

India poll violence

NEW DELHI—Militants struck polling sites with grenades, rifles and bombs Monday as Indians from Goan beaches to Himalayan mountains voted in a crucial third round of elections that will steer the fate of opposition leader Sonia Gandhi and her son, first-time candidate Rahul. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was expected to return to office at the end of the three-week, five-phase Parliament elections on the strength of a booming economy and peace prospects with neighboring Pakistan. But latest surveys indicated he may end up with a slimmer majority and less-stable coalition after results are counted May 13. *AP*

Abortion rights rally

WASHINGTON—Energized by a turnout of hundreds of thousands on the National Mall, abortion-rights activists are looking to the November presidential elections to reverse what they see as the gradual chipping away of women's reproductive rights. From across the nation and from nearly 60 countries, women marched Sunday with their daughters, mothers, husbands and others in support of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that made abortion legal. That ruling, they say, is under attack by the Bush administration. So too, they worry is a broader scope of women's health issues, including equal access to birth control and sex education. The rally stretched from the base of the US Capitol about 1.5 km back to the Washington Monument. While authorities no longer give formal crowd estimates, various police sources informally gauged the throng at between 500,000 and 800,000 people. That would exceed the estimated 500,000 who converged on Washington for the last major abortion-rights rally in 1992. *AP*

UK tries ID cards

LONDON—The government is handing out national identity cards Monday for the first time in more than half a century as it tests a system aimed at reducing the threat of terrorism in Britain. Ten thousand volunteers will receive the high-tech cards, which record biometric data including facial and iris scans and electronic fingerprints. The Home Office eventually wants to make the cards compulsory for all Britons and to build a national database of biometric details. It says the database would reduce fraud, identity theft, illegal immigration and, importantly, deter terrorists. *AP*

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ABC

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OPINION

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Mismatch

EDITORIAL

IT'S graduation time again, and tens of thousands of college graduates all over the country will be celebrating the completion of their studies. But after the euphoria has died down, the new graduates will have to face the stark reality that there aren't enough jobs to absorb the new additions to the labor force.

Probably, only the top 5 to 10 percent of each graduating class will be able to land jobs. Some will settle for clerical positions. Others will start small enterprises. A great many will work abroad, accepting positions as domestic helpers—positions that are not commensurate with their college education.

The tens of thousands of new graduates added yearly to the labor force aggravate the unemployment situation of the country. There simply aren't enough jobs that can be given to them. In some cases, there is "disguised unemployment," where a worker finds temporary refuge in a line of work that is less productive and that pays less than what should be his normal occupation.

One factor causing a worsening unemployment problem is the mismatch between the training of recent graduates and the job opportunities that are open. Every year colleges and universities produce thousands of liberal arts and education graduates, but there are not enough positions to absorb them. Thus, many of the education graduates leave for other countries to become domestic helpers or nannies.

On the other hand, hundreds, if not thousands, of positions for scientists, engineers and technologists are left unfilled because there are not that many graduates to fill them. There seems to be an aversion among Filipino students to science and mathematics. Thus we see many students choosing to study journalism, mass communication or liberal arts because in these courses they are required to take only a few science and mathematics subjects. And yet expertise in science and mathematics provides the key to progress and development in the modern world.

Another factor that contributes to the rising unemployment problem is the slow pace of industrialization. In turn, the country cannot industrialize fast enough because it lacks capital. Foreign investments are needed, but they are slow in coming because of the peace and order problem, the poor infrastructure, the high cost of electricity, the fear of labor disputes and graft and corruption. The government will have to look for solutions to these problems to be able to give impetus to the industrialization program.

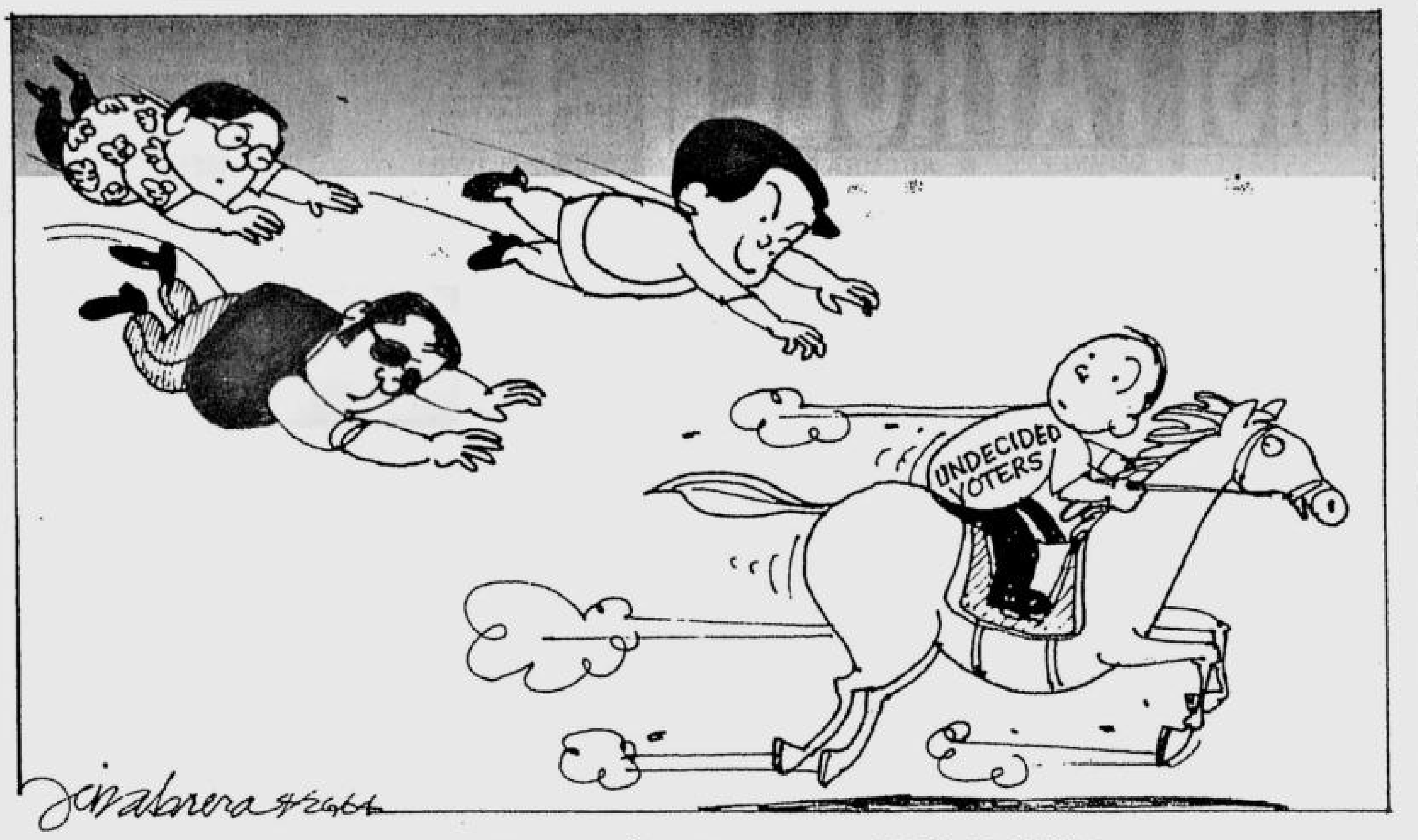
The government would do well to undertake a nationwide information technology program parallel to the industrialization program. Here it can perhaps learn a lot from the experience of India whose IT program has provided a lot of jobs to its work force. The Philippines, like India, has many English-speaking graduates who can fill professional and technical positions in the IT industry.

The tens of thousands of college graduates that are added yearly to the nation's labor force cannot be kept idle, unemployed or underemployed forever. Something has to be done to give them not just palliatives such as temporary jobs during an election campaign period, but permanent work that will keep them busy and make them useful during the most productive period of their lives.

The job mismatch problem can be attacked at its roots by establishing more science and technology high schools and colleges and giving incentives to students who choose to take degree courses in the sciences, engineering and technology. A scholarship program that will send science, engineering and technology graduates for post-graduate studies abroad should also help provide the people who will man key posts in the industrialization program of the government.

Industrialization is the traditional answer to unemployment and underemployment, but it can absorb only a small portion of the yearly increment in the labor force. It will have to be complemented with measures to increase labor utilization in other sectors such as agriculture. Something will have to be done to increase the utilization of agriculture graduates of such colleges as the UP College of Agriculture in Los Baños.

The tens of thousands of college graduates who yearly join the labor force don't have to be idle and unproductive. But it will take some serious thinking and planning on the part of the economic managers of the country to get massive industrial and IT programs going and to harness the graduates' brains and expertise in promoting national economic and social development.



Unsent 'People Power IV' RSVPs

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

EVEN before RSVPs were sent for a so-called "People Power 4," the party was scrubbed. What happened?

A rally that would eclipse People Power 2 would be staged on May 1, Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, presidential candidate Raul Roco's pointman, pledged earlier. Opposition parties would clobber the President's reckless splurge of public funds for reelection.

Galvez-Tan is a straight arrow. He was typically candid on where to forward RSVPs: "Bayan Muna, led by its secretary general Nathaniel Santiago, was on top of the preparations..."

Hello! So, Roco, Poe, Lacson or Villanueva were not calling the shots. Then, who was? people asked. That question recalled the nursery rhyme: "Come into my parlor, said the spider to the fly."

Hijacking an idealistic movement is not new. Through greedy proxies, Ferdinand Marcos took over the constitutional convention. The spider gobbled the naïve fly.

Bayan Muna and soulmates Anakpawis, Migrante, Gabriela, Santiago explained, will "mobilize forces"—minuscule really. But with warm bodies from the opposition, they would "stage Edsa IV."

A protest is a protest. But people power is a different banana, a surge of people wielding democracy's weapon of last resort against incorrigible government. That booted out Indonesia's Suharto, Georgia's Edward Scheverdnaze, plus Marcos and Estrada.

Bayan's game plan, however, apparently didn't square with what Roco, Poe, Lacson and Villanueva backed. Belatedly, their representatives scrambled to assert control. "We've decided to respect May 1 as workers' day," Galvez-Tan lamely explained. The rally—not an Edsa IV uprising—was reset to May 3.

From his Texas sickbed, Raul Roco firmly stomped on Bayan's scheme to jerry-rig a Palace siege.

Panfilo Lacson didn't play ball either. "I support (the protest) but it could lead to something," he said. "Better to wait for election day."

Fernando Poe was equally wary. "Provocateurs could sow mayhem in the planned rally," he said in Camarines Sur. Trouble would only scrub elections.

Unspoken was a gnawing concern: opposition crowds would be harnessed as a battering ram against Malacañang, while Bayan and comrades tugged the switches. "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your party-list pork barrel."

That caution is shared by ordinary citizens. No one relishes being used as cannon fodder, as "Edsa III" *descamisados* and Magdalo mutineers at Oakwood were; when their uprisings collapsed, the inciters quickly scrammed. Once burnt, twice shy.

An Edsa IV will ask people to march, go hungry, sleepless and—by a quiet wink's implication—lay down their lives at the barricades, if need be.

But die for whom?

Not for Jose Velarde. Who would give his life for a person who signs his name today and another tomorrow? Joseph Estrada's signature on a P500 bill cannily resembles that on a P500 million "guarantee" paper for crony William Gatchalian. But that was supposed to be Jose Velarde's.

Make the supreme sacrifice for Erap's candidates? My barber dubs them *"mga anak ng jueteng"*: "Jingle Bells" Estrada; martial-law bouncer Juan Ponce Enrile; Ernesto ("so young, so handsome, so expletive deleted") Maceda; Marcos' censor Kit Tatad and others.

How about Bayan & Company's vision of a dictatorship of the proletariat stripped of the old jargon? Are you daft? a friend snapped.

Like Shakespeare's Glendower, some candidates hallucinate that they can whistle up People Power at will. "I can call spirits from the vasty deep." Candidate Mel Mauricio's thinly disguised threat did a Glendower: The May 1 rally would underscore that people have the right to change leaders "through direct action."

But history shows people power blows where it wills. It is spontaneous, unplanned. Anyone can "summon spirits," Hotspur reminds Glendower. "But will they come when you do call them?"

Relentless oppression—"forbidden to light lamps," as Mao Zedong put it—sends people boiling into the streets. Soviet suppression preceded the Wenceslas Square uproar, unleashing Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Revolution." Lech Walesa vaulted Gdansk shipyard fences to present Solidarsnoc's "21 Demands." It stemmed from communist occupation of Poland.

World-class kleptocracy triggered Edsa I. The sealing of the second envelope, by the "Craven Eleven," at Estrada's impeachment, triggered Edsa II.

In its editorial calling the "Edsa IV" plan a "Sick joke," the INQUIRER said : "It's doubtful whether mass mobilization can be staged on the back of exhausted issues."

"The poor approach elections with deep ambivalence," says the just published study on "The Vote of the Poor" by Ateneo's Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC). "They see through the negative aspect of elections, yet recognize its importance in the life of the nation."

IPC focus groups confirm the poor have "idealistic notions about leaders." They know "what kind of leader they want... and value good leadership." However, the "value of good leadership is often watered down by the pragmatics of elections. Thus, the electoral process fails them by not providing them with the good leaders they seek."

Good sense may yet prevail over those who would sow the wind. Take a rain check for Edsa IV. Then, go and vote.

* * *

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Only thing to fear

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I AM not a very religious person, but I can believe that heaven does work in mysterious ways. Its handiwork is strewn everywhere, for those who have the eyes to see it.

There is an uncanny parallel between our situation and that of another country in another time. That country is America, and the time is the Great Depression. That was in the 1930s when the international financial system collapsed and sent the world's economies into a tailspin. You do not have to look hard to find the stark images for the Great Depression, you'll find them in the movies of Charlie Chaplin (the Tramp arose from those ashes) and in literature, notably John Steinbeck's masterpiece, "The Grapes of Wrath." It was a time when the Great Plains became the Great Dustbowl, farmers drifting like ghosts in the arid landscape, looking for work or begging for a meal.

One of those who saw it firsthand was Raul Roco's grandfather, Mateo, who was one of the first batch of scholars sent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In his travels (he seemed to be particularly footloose), he saw farmers huddled by a fire in winter, fighting off the cold by sipping broth from a cauldron where a few calf's bones had been boiled for a week. He had no end of stories like that to tell when he got home, sighing he wished he would never live to see another spectacle of misery like the ones he saw in his land of exile. He wouldn't, but his grandson would see it, or something close to it.

But more than a time of untold human misery, the Great Depression was a time of, well, great depression. People looked at the dark and saw only more gloom. People looked at a prostrate land and saw a need to look out only for themselves rather than their neighbors, or even their loved ones.

It was in such a time and situation that someone arose to bring hope to a nation that had been plunged into hopelessness, to lead a nation that was lost in the wilderness. That someone was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He won a record four terms, the American people reposing their faith in him again and again.

All the more breathtaking for one thing: He was a sick man.

At age 39, FDR (that is where the FVR derives from, a pale replica), then a successful politician, was stricken by polio. The disease left him crippled, though coming from a wealthy family he was able to get the best treatment for it, and on occasion (as the one dramatized in "Pearl Harbor," though probably apocryphally) rise from his chair on wobbly feet to make a point. When he first fell ill, his rivals predicted that it was the end of his political career, the American voter would never vote for a sick man particularly at that time. The times, they said, called for someone in the pink of health to give the country a simulacrum of it. His allies worried privately that that was probably the case.

But he confounded all of them. Ironically, his disease did not alienate him from the American public, it made the public identify with him. What had alienated him from the public was in fact his health and wealth. He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and most Americans, particularly in the first years of the Depression, thought he was too high up there to be one of them. His disease became the great equalizer: he was, after all, no different from them, someone who could also be laid low by the hand of adversity. When he ran for president in 1932, the American voters embraced him as their own. He beat the incumbent, Herbert Hoover, by a mile.

He would pull America up by its bootstraps by unveiling a program called The New Deal, one that went against the grain of conventional capitalist wisdom then, which scorned any government intervention in the market. It put the people's needs at the heart of the nation's priorities.

As the name New Deal suggests, it was a covenant between the government and the citizens, reaffirming common beliefs and commitments, to nurse a sick nation to health. He eschewed a grandstanding approach and made his policies known through fireside chats via radio.

FDR's health continued to be an issue his rivals harped on, but it was never an issue with the voters. He went on to win three more terms, trouncing Alfred Landon, Wendell Willkie and Thomas Dewey, in 1936, 1940 and 1944 respectively. Being confined to a wheelchair did seem to have taught him not just lessons in humility but an ability to empathize with the wretched of the earth, to feel the plight of the common person.

That wasn't all propaganda. The urgency with which he pushed for the New Deal, which did not lack for critics, some of whom called it socialist, owed as much to his desire to lift the oppression that weighed on the chest of the average American as it did from political acumen.

His inaugural speech in 1932 sounded the battle cry against the Great Depression and yoked the nation to one mighty effort toward recovery. He might as well have been talking of the Philippines in the new millennium. It read in part:

"Our distress comes from no failure of substance. We are stricken by no plague of locusts. Compared with the perils which our forefathers conquered because they believed and were not afraid, we have still much to be thankful for. Nature still offers her bounty and human efforts have multiplied it... (L)et me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory."

Raul Roco comes home after being stricken down by an affliction. I am not a very religious man, but I can believe heaven works in mysterious ways.

‘No-el’ scenario makes no sense

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE LATEST NFO Trends survey has thrown the opposition into panic as it showed the President increasing her lead over Fernando Poe Jr. by over 10 points, which is equivalent to at least 3 million votes. This lead is expected to widen some more as the opposition remains fractious and prospects of unity between FPJ and Panfilo Lacson seem to be fading. Even if the two opposition blocs unite, it's not going to be easy to iron out the kinks at the local level. The latest survey makes imminent the prospect of another term for GMA, but it also reduces to absurdity the “No-el” scenario that Lacson and his allies in the military have been trying to accuse GMA of plotting. If she is leading by more than 10 points and that lead is expected to widen, why should she not want an election?

* * *

Independent senatorial candidate Heherson Alvarez has pledged to allocate most of his CDF as seed money for the establishment of a National Cancer Institute if elected to the Senate. Alvarez, studying the disease that has attacked his theater actress-wife Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, says his idea of a cancer institute for a holistic approach to this killer disease is akin to the setting up of the Quezon Institute decades back, which helped combat tuberculosis as the No. 1 disease in the country, or the National Kidney and Transplant Institute for renal diseases. He said he now realizes that perhaps as many as 80 percent of the many families afflicted by cancer cannot afford the crippling costs of treatment. Alvarez has found a natural constituency among cancer-afflicted families.

* * *

In Bacolod City it's a return bout for the lone congressional seat between incumbent Rep. Monico Puentevella, Lakas district chair, and former Rep. John Orola, a former tourism attaché. In the 2001 elections, Orola, a lawyer, lost to the neophyte Puentevella, a man with a silky singing voice and a long involvement in sports development. An in-law of the Dizons of Bacolod that count among their member CHED Chair Rolando Dizon, Puentevella made a name in the House as the lead sponsor of the impeachment complaint against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco. (His motion was lost after the Nationalist People's Coalition closed ranks against it). He again figured in the impeachment move against Davide sponsored by the NPC by casting himself with the pro-Davide bloc.

* * *

The interesting thing about electoral contests in Bacolod and many other places is that they are a rehash of old fights that sees former opponents becoming allies and vice versa. In 1998, Orola, backed by Eduardo Cojuangco, won the congressional fight against Councilor Renecito Novero, who was then supported by Bacolod businessman Sammy Palanca, by just 200 votes. In the 2001 elections, while Orola and Puentevella locked horns for the Congress seat, Novero fought former Vice Mayor Joy Valdez for the mayoralty and again lost. Now Orola, Valdez and Novero are together in the “Development Team” against Puentevella and former Mayor Bing Leonardia.

* * *

The spunky and petite Mayor Valdez is being challenged by Leonardia, who suffered a big upset when he lost the mayoral fight in 1998 reportedly after Cojuangco poured P27 million into the campaign fund of Erap, Orola and an obscure mayoral candidate named Oscar Verdeflor. Cojuangco was said to have gotten angry with Leonardia for backing Erap's major opponent, Speaker Jose de Venecia. Supported by Cojuangco's money, Verdeflor trounced his opponent by 5,000 votes. Local pundits note that the 2004 elections mark the first time that the Montelibano and Guanzon blocs, which have been traditionally at odds over local posts, are supporting the same candidates (in the Development Team), together with Palanca who developed Bacolod's reclamation area.

* * *

I queried Puentevella how things were going, and he was confident of a victory, claiming he had the support of 46 barangay captains out of the city's 61. He showed the results of a survey conducted from April 16 to 17 by a group from the University of St. La Salle, with 1,100 respondents, pointing to a comfortable victory for him. But political analyst and radioman Alex Espino, former president of West Negros College, Bacolod's largest university, who is allied with the Orola-Valdez team, opines that the race is actually tighter, with Puentevella supported by 23 barangay captains and Orola by 28. Both candidates are frantically wooing the barangay officials.

* * *

During our conversation at the Negros Occidental High School homecoming recently, Puentevella appeared quite hurt by GMA's failure to openly endorse him during her visits to Negros, despite the faithful support he had has given to her programs. But I will win no matter what, the lawmaker said.

Actually Bacolod is only one of the many places where GMA finds herself caught between her supporters at the local level. Recently she intimated to me that she prefers not to have to choose between her followers as the bruising decisions would sap all the energies she needs for governance. But Puentevella says that as a leader she has to stand up for her followers.

* * *

The fight between Palanca and Puentevella stemmed from a privilege speech the latter delivered in the House, linking the businessman to some allegedly shady deals in the city. Palanca flatly denies the accusations and even Speaker Jose de Venecia, whose wife Gina is related to Palanca's business partner, Bacolod civic leader Nena de Leon, does not lend credence to them. But JDV is also caught in a squeeze as Puentevella is his trusted lieutenant and he'd like to see him win. Ever the peacemaker, JDV still hopes he can find a peace formula to avert a bloody contest in Bacolod.

Who not to vote for

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

“SEEMMOT” is an acronym friends of mine have coined to remind them of the senatorial candidates they will **not** vote for come May 10.

“Seemmot” stands for Santiago, Enrile, Estrada, Maceda, Madrigal, Osmeña and Tatad. There are several ways of characterizing the seven: while they represent both the administration K-4 slate and the opposition KNP line-up, all of them were prominent figures in the pro-Erap camp before, during and after the impeachment process. All of them, save for Madrigal, Estrada and Osmeña, are former senators who went down with the Erap ship in the 2001 polls, along with then-newcomer Madrigal.

Estrada is, of course, Erap's son, the “star” of that maudlin, hair-raising TV ad where the imprisoned former president is shown giving his dubious blessings to his son, charging him with the “obligation” to look after the poor of this land.

Santiago, Enrile, Maceda, Osmeña and Tatad also represent the old guard of Philippine politics, dating back to the martial-law era during which Enrile and Tatad became two of the most prominent members of the Marcos Cabinet—Tatad announcing the imposition of martial law on nationwide TV, and Enrile providing a most graphic excuse for its imposition with his claims of having been “ambushed” by communist forces.

Osmeña and Maceda went on exile during the dictatorship but quickly resumed their political careers after Edsa, quickly disabusing the public of any illusions they might have held about their reformist stances. Santiago first made a name for herself as an outspoken judge and later government official who supposedly ate death threats for breakfast. But her effortless somersault into the K-4 camp together with Osmeña proves she's not above eating her fearless words as well.

If anybody has similar “election guides” to share, let's hear it now, as voters are probably finalizing their line-ups and would surely appreciate nudges in any direction.

* * *

“CARTOONER 2000” writes in reaction to Sunday's column on GMA's replies to the four basic questions to candidates on the issue of reproductive health:

“I see no difference from her previous pronouncements,” “Cartooner” remarks. “That was the reason for (her) early response. It is still the Church-dictated natural way of family planning that never worked (that she endorses).”

Another point of concern for “Cartooner” is the use of the phrase “family planning based on Christian values.” “She forgets that she should be adhering to the principle of separation of Church and State,” writes this reader. “How about the Islamic choice? No wonder the South feels ignored by the government.”

I might add that non-Catholic Christians also believe in the morality of contraception and wholeheartedly approve of the use of so-called “artificial” methods. This is a belief shared by the majority of Catholic Filipinos, as shown time and again in periodic public opinion surveys.

I can only speculate on where the phrase “family planning based on Christian values” comes from, but I would guess that it stems from the mistaken belief that abortion is considered a method of family planning.

Contraception, including the “natural” methods, prevents pregnancy. Abortion is the termination of a viable pregnancy. The two are separate and distinguishable terms and practices, and people who insist on linking the two are being intellectually dishonest at best and hysterical at worst.

* * *

HEALTH authorities admit that while natural family planning, or more accurately, periodic abstinence (that is, refraining from sex during the woman's fertile period), is considered one of the modern methods of family planning, it hadn't been promoted as heavily as the other modern methods in the past. This is why, goes the President's formal reply to the question on funding, her policy these days is “pushing for an aggressive natural population plan that involves massive educational and awareness campaigns.”

There is a reason, though for the seeming “neglect” in the promotion of periodic abstinence. And that is that women just can't get the hang of it and refuse to live with the uncertainty and high degree of risk—of pregnancy.

It may also have been the refusal of their husbands or male partners to “cooperate” in the method. After all, it would probably be tremendously difficult to reason with a drunken, enraged or engorged male.

The decision to rechannel a large chunk of public funds to NFP will have a major impact on the national family planning program. Contrary to claims that NFP is the “cheapest” method, it is in fact the most costly. It's costly because government will have to spend huge sums on training counselors around the country, and counselors will have to spend more time with women and their partners. The estimate is that couples get the hang of the method only after three months of counseling, during which they must refrain from sex or use other methods of protection.

* * *

MOST experts on population and development are raising the alarm over our population situation. Our total population is estimated to double in just over a decade. Any slowing of the rate of population growth will not be felt until a generation later, mainly because of what's known as the “population momentum,” that the number of births from the youth and children of today will continue pushing our population upwards for many years.

Clearly, an “aggressive” approach to slowing population growth is needed if we are to counter the worst effects of our population crisis. A national policy based on NFP is not only risky, but foolish and foolhardy.

Exile

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ON OCT. 10, 1768, the weary travelers arrived at the port of Palapag and decided to continue on to Manila. It took another 12 days before they reached Cavite, but not without losing their anchor when the cable snapped in the rough weather encountered in the Strait of San Bernardino. Even in the relative safety of Manila Bay, their three small boats nearly ran aground on the sandbar at the entrance when some strong breakers hit.

The majority of the priests were confined to the Colegio de Manila in Intramuros, but their vice provincial was virtually under house arrest and incommunicado at the Convent of Sto. Domingo while their father prior (Fr. Juan Francisco Romero, who was later dismissed from the Society for siding with Archbishop Rojo, a Dominican) stayed at another Dominican house.

Although they were allowed to say Mass and had enough food and clothing, no day passed without the banging of drums at the entrance of the residence at the changing of the guards. Their cloisters were turned into soldiers' barracks and the prior's room into quarters for the officers of the guards, where they received their girl friends and cavorted at all hours of the day and night. In the center of the college, guards were posted with bayonets drawn.

Paintings and other works of art were despoiled and their church, once reputed to be the best in Asia, was full of dust, cobwebs, bats and lizards with shrubbery growing from cracks in the walls. Much to the annoyance of Spanish officials, they didn't find much left of the fabled Jesuit wealth since the British during their occupation had taken off with the wrought silver from the church, candlesticks, candelabras, lamps, chalices and sacred vessels (not to mention the Murillo map).

In January, the Jesuits serving in the Visayas began to arrive at the residence (11 from Catbalogan and Palapag, another 11 from Bohol, 18 from Carigara, Dagami and Hilongos, Leyte where they had three residences; eight from the Colegio de Arevalo, Zamboanga and Negros and finally 13 from Cebu and Dapitan. In the meantime, the natives were astounded at seeing the priests carted off like criminals by the soldiers.

By June of 1768, the governor decided to send them off to Mexico. A frigate was prepared. Twenty had to stay behind due to ill health.

Toward the end of July, 18 priests and three brothers were selected to go to America. The rest were to travel to Cadiz by way of the Cape of Good Hope later in the year when the priests from the Marianas would arrive in Manila to join them.

At 4 o'clock in the morning of Aug. 1, the 21 were brought to Cavite and three days later, they set sail. In the port of San Jacinto a sympathizer sent them three cows, some pigs and 224 chickens drenched in seawater, only half of which survived. The cows were not permitted on board, so that before leaving Philippine territory the passengers were already consuming salted food, which they believed caused scurvy.

On Sept. 14, they passed the Marianas near an islet called Fallaron de Pajaros because of the flocks of marine birds that took refuge there. Being at the mercy of the winds, there were days when they could not advance at all. Other times, storms would hit them, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Their only recourse was to pray to God and chant the exorcisms of the Church to ward off the tempests through the intercession of a *lignum crucis* salvaged from their ransacked belongings at the college.

From Sept. 15, a brisk wind blew and they began to feel very cold. About 2,000 leagues from Acapulco, many casks were empty and the problem of fresh water arose. There was no port where they could stop and replenish their supplies. Rationing began, but mercifully some rainstorms occurred and they were able to collect 100 barrels of water.

By November, they were only 600 leagues from Acapulco. Here they sighted the *señas*, marine growths resembling onions floating upside down, indicating that they were not far from America since these aquatic plants came from the coast of California between Monterey and Cape Mendocino (their names even then, which the Americans have had the good sense not to change). A Te Deum was then chanted in thanksgiving, which was the usual Spanish custom, when this area was reached.

On Dec. 2, they anchored near the shore of San Jose. Along the coasts, they saw many whales, large fish and seals but since the priests had been driven from California, they were unable to find the supplies they needed that used to abound when the Jesuits were in California.

At the pueblo of San Jose, some Indians heard that there were Jesuits on the galleon and managed to come aboard. When they saw the priests, they cried unashamed, confessing that with the departure of the Jesuits they felt orphaned. Many had died when a plague followed by famine visited them. And they kept delaying their departure, returning often to visit them and asking for confession.

On Dec. 7, they weighed anchor and coasted along the Gulf of California until Dec. 13, when they sighted the port of Navidad. Although they expected to reach Acapulco in two or three days, since it was not 100 leagues away, a calm descended so that they began to experience the excessive heat. In the waters, they saw huge turtles, which the men caught and ate. The sea was full of small snakes swimming on the surface.

Finally on Christmas Day, they dropped anchor in Acapulco.

(*Nicholas P. Cushner, S.J., “The Journals of Francisco Puig, S.J., 1768-1770”*)

DeGeneration

YOUNG BLOOD

Florianne Jimenez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

CALL me a decrepit young geezer, but I'm starting to lose faith in my own generation.

It's not that I think everyone in Gen Y is destined to work in dead-end jobs. Most of today's youth are coasting along just fine, staying away from drugs and alcohol. They don't party till dawn on school nights. Many excel in school. The only things that need improvement are our awareness and involvement in what happens around us.

Whenever you ask the Filipino adolescent what's happening in the world, he will be stumped. But if you ask him what is the latest in pop culture, he can give you all the details, including who's dating whom.

The biggest problem with our generation is that we've stopped forming our own opinions. I'm starting to envy the youth of the 1960s, who made good use of their freedom of speech. That was an era when to be apathetic was to be a traitor to your nation.

Though I'm not, never was and may never become an activist, I admire their willingness to march in the streets for what they believed in and to do something about the situation instead of asking someone else to do it. But these days, activists are brushed off as drug addicts, kids crying for attention, people who are bored and need to find outlets for their angst.

We only read the newspaper when we need a report on current events. Most often, we ignore the front page and go straight to the entertainment section. These are the people who will be working in offices, paying taxes, voting and even contesting positions in government. At an early age we already seem to have lost our insight and idealism, so what can we possibly contribute to our country when it's our time to lead?

Perhaps we have been too lucky. We could very well be the spoiled brats of Philippine history. We've hardly experienced oppression, hardship and suffering. Past generations witnessed wars, censorship and brutality. All that our generation has experienced are crackdowns on pirated CDs, actors masquerading as politicians and street-clearing operations.

I'm not saying that these things don't affect people. But we just don't care unless something directly affects us. We simply turn a blind eye to the situation, cover our ears and pretend that such problems will go away when we leave the country.

Teenagers who used to rant and rave for hours on end are now reduced to monosyllabic grunts. From the politically conscious hippies of the 1960s, the youth have evolved into clones raised by television. In this day and age, we are allowed and encouraged to state our opinions, to take a stand and at least try to make a difference. But all I want to do is sit back and let the adults battle it out.

Philosophers call this attitude existential anguish. It can be best summed up in the phrase: “I don't care anymore because we're all going to hell whatever happens.” We think this country is hopeless. About 70 percent of Filipinos live below the poverty line. People who lack competence are fighting for national leadership. And all we do is sit back and wait until we graduate from college, and then leave this place to make money somewhere else.

I know that not every member of Gen Y feels this way. There are still some who believe we can make a difference, that the greater good will still prevail and that leaders still listen. Unfortunately, they're succumbing to cynicism and angst. And as most of us head for more moneyed lands, the country is bound to go on a nosedive.

But can anyone blame us? Look at the situation: Investors are starting to move away, leaving our economy hopelessly indebted. Our politics has lost its dignity and turned into a game of mudslinging and rumor-mongering. There are fewer job opportunities, and one of the few more lucrative occupations involves talking to foreigners on a phone with a false accent.

Everyone in our generation dreams of being rich, successful and happy. But the dream requires us to hop on a plane and become expatriates. In short, we think that being a Filipino is a liability because this nation does nothing to help the youth.

A few days ago, when I was feeling so hopeless about our situation, I found hope in an ancient Arabic poem. If this were made required reading for all Philippine leaders, perhaps they would think and start doing what they're supposed to do.

A willow branch reminds one that a youth
Can easily be bent towards the Truth;
Old reprobates a sterner fate require,
For they will straighten only in the fire.

This poem says that the old are difficult to change because they have been that way for so many years, but the young are easier to point in the right direction because their minds are more open and impressionable. If you do things right, eventually our faith in this country will be restored.

Most of us in Gen Y cannot vote until the next presidential elections. That's six years to stop the corruption and incompetence in the government. Are our leaders going to spend those six years twiddling their thumbs in their seats of power or are they going to do what they're supposed to do: lead our country toward progress?

Nowadays, it looks as if our leaders are becoming more blind than we are. I don't think they realize that the young have no room for social involvement. They haven't noticed that more than half of the members of our generation are pessimistic and have lost hope in the future of this country and plan to leave right after graduation.

Our leaders think that only people who are 18 and above should be served well because their political careers depend on their votes. Well, they're wrong. The opinion of everyone matters, even if those opinions won't necessarily be expressed through the ballot on election day. The job description of public officials says that they should promote the well-being of the Filipino people, and nowhere in the Constitution does it say that there is an age minimum to be a citizen of this country.

To all the politicians who are spending millions to put out campaign posters and commercials: There's still time. Perhaps your predecessors have given politicians a bad name. You do not have to follow suit. If you have integrity, dignity and intelligence, then you should help restore our faith in our country. If you lead honestly and diligently, we might go back to loving our country like the past generations who fought so bravely to defend it.

Florianne Jimenez, 14, is a 2nd year high-school student at the UP Integrated School.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

The real power crisis

WE are deeply concerned with the real motive behind the alarmist claims of both the government and the private sector of a looming power crisis. Are they raising the alarm now to enjoin us to address together the foreseen problem or to condition the consumers to brace themselves for new rates increases? In several fora, both the government and big business have called for more incentives, such as higher rates, to make the Philippine power industry attractive to investors and thus avert the so-called power crisis.

Even as they warn of a power crisis and propose higher power rates, the cost of electricity in the country remains among the highest in the world. This is because consumers continue to be charged for the onerous purchased power adjustment (PPA), which in places—like the Meralco franchise area—where rates are already unbundled, is hidden under the generation charge.

That is the real crisis that the power sector faces—the high cost of electricity and the resulting threat to make electricity no longer affordable to some consumers, especially the poor households.

The crisis in the power industry remains unsolved because we have an incumbent president with no political will to address the root cause of the problem—the onerous IPP contracts. These contracts have take-or-pay provision, by virtue of which IPPs are paid the full amount of contracted energy even if they only produce half or, in some cases, nothing at all. These onerous contracts have resulted in the PPA charges tucked into our power bills.

To avoid giving in to the public demand to abolish the PPA, President Macapagal-Arroyo's palliative solution in May 2002 was to impose a P0.40 cap on Napocor's PPA . This undeniably resulted in a significant reduction in electricity rates particularly in the Meralco area where the PPA is equivalent to 100 percent of the basic charge. But only three to four months since the effectivity of PPA suspension in July 2002, payment for unused electricity reached 85 to 90 percent of total basic charge. In other areas payment reached 30 to 80 percent of the basic charge.

This crisis in the power industry needs a decisive action from the President. Unfortunately, there is no manifestation of this kind of action from the incumbent. We challenge the other presidential candidates to lay down, as early as now, their agenda on the power industry and their plans as well in addressing the issues of the onerous IPP contracts and the burdensome PPA. The next president has to formulate a clear policy action on the root cause of the purported power crisis. Cancel onerous IPP contracts and stop charging the consumers for unused electricity.

—MARIS DELA CRUZ,
JAYSON EDWARD SAN JUAN,
ARNEL RAMOS,
JOB BORDAMONTE,
Freedon from Debt Coalition, 34
Matiaga St., Cantral District,
Quezon City

Not our countrymen

I WOULD like to react to the Youngblood article "Staying behind" which was written by Sara Zoe L. Sangco (PDI, 3/30/04), in response to an earlier article sent by a Filipina based in Europe.

I have no quarrel with our countrymen who made good abroad and who chose to stay abroad because of good opportunities not available here. In fact, I have very close relatives residing abroad.

However, I have a very strong—nay, to the nth—aversion to Filipinos (I don't call them countrymen) who harbor illusions of grandeur or holier-than-thou attitude. More so when they make derogatory remarks about the millions of our countrymen who remain in the country to face its problems and do their level best to improve conditions, no matter how difficult it seems. Many of them have opportunities to live a better life elsewhere, but they choose to stay because of love of country. And here comes this defamer who, after escaping her burden of responsibility, still has the gall to blame those who are in the frontlines.

Sangco speaks for all our countrymen who are here to stay. We are not stupid, we have minds of our own, we are Filipinos! Proud to be Pinoys. Sangco obviously has enough qualifications to work abroad but she chooses to stay, to lead a good fight.

As for the demented girl who diabolically demeaned the good reputation of Filipinos, let all doors shut her from the Philippines forever. Sangco put it more eloquently: We deserve better.

—LORENZO MINA,
lorenz@universalholidays.com

Teacher Eddie Gil

IF I could only vote twice, I'd give Eddie Gil my second vote for lending humor to a dismal election campaign exercise. He is the epitome of what our people have become.

After President Macpagal-Arroyo, I'd vote for Gil for he is honest enough to show his real self—sans pretensions and hypocrisy.

Gil is just being himself and for that I admire him a little more than the other male candidates.

Gil often makes my day, making me laugh and making me happy. I can honestly give him credit for that.

When I feel like puking seeing the other male candidates so seriously lie, his white lies are at least very refreshing because he is honest enough to show that he enjoys lying to us—suckers.

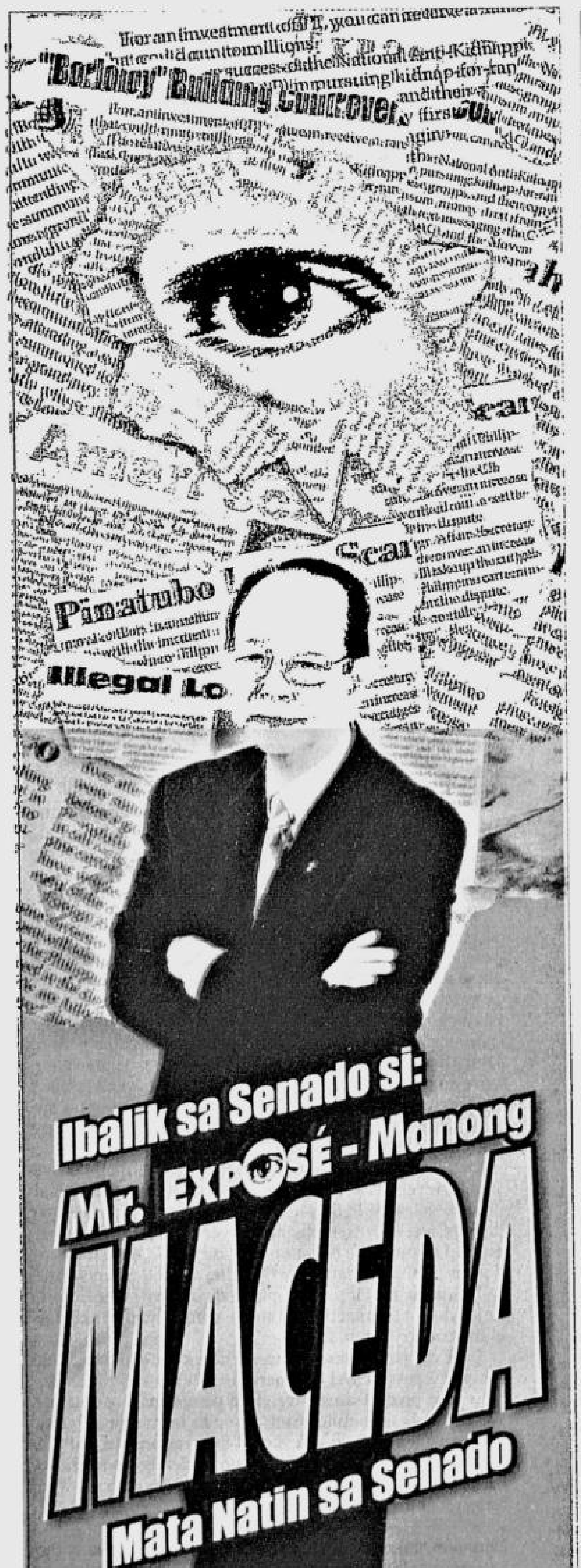
Gil, has made a great contribution to our society, in showing people not to take the candidates' promises seriously. He taught us to accept them just as we should accept him for their promises are as empty as his.

Too bad Gil did not join the movie industry for he could have given Dolphy a run for his money.

Gil is a born actor for he personifies what a true actor is off-screen and on-screen. But unlike other actors, he at least does not suffer from split personality. I have no doubt that should he appear in a movie, he'd be simply himself—even when out of it. Some actors we have who can no longer separate their reel roles from their real personalities.

Gil may not win the presidency of the republic, but the Famas Awards awaits him. That's the second vote I hope to give to Eddie Gil.

—MANUEL L. MORATO,
Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194
Tomas B. Morato Ave.,
Quezon City



Flawed elections

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—One of our proud boasts as a "democratic" nation is that, we have held, except during the martial-law years under Ferdinand Marcos, regular elections. Unlike some of our neighbors in Asia whose modes for political change have included extra-legal means like military coups, we have managed to keep the electoral rhythm going and elections have become part of our life. Yet, can we truly say that we are proud of our political institutions, given the way elections have played out over the years?

The classic stereotype of elections, Philippine-style, is that they symbolize the three G's (goons, guns and gold). When I was growing up, a more classic imagery characterized elections: birds and bees had the ability to vote, especially in some constituencies.

We've had countless elections, both under US colonial rule and in post-independence Philippines for more than a hundred years now. Prior to the first nationwide poll for the National Assembly in 1907, there were several local elections. In the February 1906 elections for provincial governors, for instance, 29 were elected, of whom only five did not belong to the pro-American Federalista Party, formed in December 1900. The Partido Nacionalista was established in 1901 with independence as its main agenda. Subsequently, the Partido Liberal was organized in 1902 to "establish a responsible self-government as a means to build up the Filipino nationality."

Party formation had become a fact of Philippine political life in the first decade of American rule. Prior to the 1907 National Assembly contest, the incipient leaders of the country with varying persuasions went about organizing themselves into parties for the ensuing political campaign across the nation.

The Partido Independista, Partido Urgentista and the Comite de la Union Nacional all burst on the scene with their national platforms. The original Federalistas morphed into the Partido Progresista. The proliferation of political groups or party formations that we see today is not new. It has deep roots in our political history.

On a personal note, I have been interested in the topic of Philippine elections because my late father, who had seemed more of a bureaucrat than a politician, unexpectedly won as mayor of our town in San Fernando, La Union, over two more formidable rivals in the 1940 local elections. He was, of course, greatly aided by the fact that at the time, the birds and the bees hadn't yet learned to vote.

My quick and dirty research on how many elections were held starting with the one in 1907 yields the following:

An early Chinese scholar studying Philippine politics, Dapen Liang, probably wrote the first comprehensive book on the development of political parties in the country, published in 1939 and revised in 1970. The 1909 elections registered twice as many voters as the 1907 poll. In the 1912 elections, the electorate expanded even more, though gender and other requirements limited this expansion. Then, there were two elections in 1916, due to the enactment of the Jones Law, which replaced the old Philippine Commission with an elected Senate, the precursor of today's upper house.

Subsequent elections were held regularly in 1919, 1922, 1925, 1928, 1931, 1934 and 1935. As is well-known, the 1935 elections were the first to be held in the country following its Commonwealth status. It was a clear victory for Quezon and Osmeña, who had a bitter feud previously but teamed up to run for president and vice president. There was another election in 1937, the year that women were given the right of suffrage.

The 1940 elections I cited earlier was followed by the 1941 presidential campaign, which re-elected Quezon, who eventually died in wartime exile in the United States. In 1946, Osmeña lost to Roxas, who established the Liberal Party.

All together, there must have been at least 15 elections from 1907 to 1946, and another 24 presidential and congressional elections after 1946, not to mention the countless other elections for local officials down to the barangay level. Even under martial law, Marcos called elections and various referenda to give a semblance of democratic governance.

The point I want to make is that, with all this historical experience with electoral campaigns for more than a century now, the Philippines should have by now perfected the state of the art, as we say in academia. We should have greatly improved the institutional framework for electoral activities, such as political parties, party-list systems, the quality of the electorate, a viable opposition, campaign spending and other rules, the Comelec, and so on. Having been around that long, competitive elections and the party system should have been very well-developed by now.

Instead, we seem to have retrogressed and elections in the modern period have always been messy—and violent—affairs. We have institutionalized the wrong things like vote buying, cheating, flying voters, the birds and the bees, fraud, gaudy entertainment, mudslinging, violence, intimidation, manipulation, tampering with ballot boxes, and other unsavory practices, which are played out with impunity. Everything seems to be done to excess and we take it all on the chin like business as usual.

Electoral reform has been talked about for years on end. But old habits die hard, if at all. Where does one even start? In his article on Philippine elections, published in 2002, political scientist Steven Rood, former director of the Cordillera Studies Center at UP Baguio and currently with Asia Foundation in Manila, says that elections do determine who rules in the Philippines, and that support for better elections can produce better governance. I couldn't agree more.

But he also notes that there was a "disaffection" in the ranks of the middle class following the election of Joseph Estrada in 1998, who they felt ought not to be president. "Thus," he continues," there is a dissonance between belief in elections and rejection of the result of those elections—that elections are the hallmark of democracy, but that the current president (Estrada) is seen as unfit for office."

This could be part of the problem. The middle classes are probably thinning in the electorate, where they are already in the minority to begin with. It is estimated that about 3,000 Filipinos a day leave for jobs abroad, people the country needs for political and economic development. The disaffection spills outward. And this should concern every sitting administration.

However, Rood sees some hope in the importance and quality of local government elections as the locus of governance continues to shift away from Manila, especially following the passage of the Local Government Code in 1991. He did a paper in 1998, which indicated that local officials were becoming more likely to have a professional background, such as doctors and entrepreneurs. In addition, he notes, "they seem to be oriented more towards 'good governance,' particularly as variations in the quality of local governance has more effect now on local economic and social development."

It is possible that we bewail Philippine politics too much because our sights are Manila-centric. We don't care too much about what happens in the periphery.

In the end, if we are to follow Rood's argument, the overall quality of local leadership will significantly upgrade the quality of local electorates as well. The increasing political literacy of voters at the local levels could gradually lead to their ability to make informed choices and undermine the insidious electoral practices mentioned above. Only then can we say that indeed, we know what political democracy is all about.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

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Bishop calls for abolition of Pagcor

DAGUPAN CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz has called for the abolition of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., saying the arguments against its continued operations have become stronger and clearer.

"Pagcor's social objective is pitiful compared to the havoc and shame it brings to the country. It distributes its daily earnings among 'official' recipients, as well as 'personal' beneficiaries," Cruz said in statement on Monday.

"It throws financial crumbs to charity but only to deodorize its moral stink. It attempts to justify itself by assuming social religious concerns by welcoming sectarian beggars," he added.

On the issue that the Catholic Church benefits from Pagcor, Cruz clarified that his archdiocese had never been a beneficiary of Pagcor and that Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales no longer accepted donations from the corporation.

"I am 100-percent sure that no one from archdiocese receives anything from Pagcor," he told the INQUIRER.

Cruz also clarified that his exposé was not meant to target President Macapagal-Arroyo but the Pagcor itself.

"She can be president for life and I don't care. But Pagcor must be abolished and the government must promote work ethic and foment industry," he said.

He said what he has so far revealed about alleged irregularities in the Pagcor was only 5 percent, "as telling everything would take more than one press briefing."

"At least (Malacañang) already knows and that the documents have been turned over to the PlunderWatch. We will just wait and see what happens although I'm not sure about what will happen considering how justice moves very slowly in our country," he said.

In his statement, Cruz said the government needed money but "for the government to have more money by officially providing big time gambling for its citizens and visitors alike smacks of desperation and exhibits bankruptcy of ethics."

"The situation is worse because the government is not known for honesty in handling of public funds, and neither famous for integrity in regulating its expenditures (thus). Pagcor as an official gambling corporation further erodes the already sagging image of the government, particularly in the matter of the use of public funds," he said.

He said he wanted Pagcor abolished because it does not enrich the nation and does not generate wealth for the country.

"Pagcor breeds graft and corruption when it rakes in millions from otherwise decent and honest private employees and public officials. It foments the mentality of chance, the vice of greed and avarice," he added. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio docs make up for equipment lack to save PCSO chair

BAGUIO CITY—Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" Singson de Leon, who on April 15 suffered a near-fatal ruptured aneurysm, had asked her relatives for a piece of paper and can now write, her doctors here said.

De Leon, 57, who is now recuperating at the Makati Medical Center, could not still talk because she had a tracheotomy or operation on the windpipe to save her life, said Dr. Jesus Nigos, De Leon's attending doctor at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

But according to local doctors, De Leon's recovery is remarkable considering that most people suffering from ruptured aneurysm either die or stay comatose.

Remarkable

Remarkable is how the BGHMC was able to save De Leon's life despite a lack of equipment for such cases.

Dr. Rolando Santos, BGHMC chief training officer, said if De Leon's aneurysm occurred here four months ago, it would have been a different story.

"Thanks to our human resource program, it has come to a case of right timing, right person," Santos said.

By its own initiative, the BGHMC has been recruiting young doctors and sending them for training to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in its effort to stay at par with the best of Metro Manila's hospitals.

One of these doctors is the 32-year-old Nigos who was trained in neurosurgery at the PGH and who returned to the BGHMC last January.

At about 9:30 a.m. of April 15, Nigos had just finished his rounds at BGHMC and was about to go home when he received a call regarding De Leon.

Nigos said he was informed that De Leon just had an executive check-up and her doctors did not find anything serious although for the past weeks, she had been complaining of headaches.

Speech

De Leon was speaking before PCSO employees about the agency's operation at the Microtel Inn and Suites here when she felt dizzy and collapsed.

It turned out that De Leon had an intracranial aneurysm and a 60 cc (cubic centimeters) blood clot lodged in her brain.

In the few similar cases that they handled, Nigos said they would usually bring the patient to Metro Manila. But because of the severity of De Leon's condition and her stature, Nigos had no recourse but to operate on De Leon.

He assembled a team composed of neurologist Socorro Sarfati and resident Armand Posadas.

Because BGHMC has no CT scan machine, they had to wheel De Leon to the nearby Baguio Medical Center to scan the damage in her brain.

Method

The principal method to treat intracranial aneurysm is through clipping or the placement of a clip in the neck to cut off the aneurysm and prevent further hemorrhage, Nigos said.

But he said the problem was that the BGHMC has no metal clip and he had to borrow one from Dr. Francisco Hernandez.

The BGHMC also has no operating or surgical microscope (which costs about P4.5 million) for such delicate surgery as clipping and removing the blood clot so Nigos and his team had to resort to steady hands and keen eyesight.

It took them two hours to remove the blood clot and the rest of the day to repair the damage. By noon of April 16, De Leon's condition had stabilized allowing the doctors to authorize her transfer to the Makati Medical Center.

Nigos said that under the so-called Glasgow rating in consciousness level (3 being the lowest and 10 the highest), De Leon is now 8. When she was admitted to BGHMC, her rating was 3, he said.

Miracle

Her near-miraculous recovery today gratifies Santos.

"This shows that our program is bearing fruit," he said.

BGHMC's human resource program was started 15 years ago to give the hospital's general surgeons a chance to specialize in different fields of surgery. BGHMC pays for their training.

BGHMC doctors are sent to the PGH to train with their top surgeons for several years.

Nigos had three years of residency at the BGHMC before he was sent for neurosurgery training to PGH for four years.

"Even if we lack the equipment, at least we have the technique," Santos said.

Even former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, De Leon's elder brother, congratulated the BGHMC team. "Although the hospital severely lacks the equipment, the doctors were very capable," Singson said in Ilocano.

Nigos said like De Leon's case, aneurysm strikes mostly women beyond the age of 40. He said frequent symptoms include headache, nausea, vomiting, depression, sensitivity to light, neck pain or stiffness, and weakness. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Arts fest in UP Baguio

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Baguio Committee and Arts is inviting visitors to the 16th Baguio Summer Arts Festival that is ongoing from April 19 to May 1

A theater production, "Nikimalika, Li'l Brown Brother," written by Chris Millado, will be performed by the Cordillera Music Tutorial and Research Center on April 30 and May 1 at the Bulwagang Juan Luna, UP Baguio.

Earlier, the play "Anatomiya ng Korupsyon" by Malou-Leviste Jacob, was featured by the Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation Inc. in coordination with the Cultural Center of the Phils.

The festival seeks to promote the tradition of promoting the culture and arts of the region.

Supporter of candidate for mayor slain in Ilocos

BANNA, Ilocos Norte—A known supporter of Board Member Carlito Abadilla Sr. was gunned down on Saturday night in what the police believed was an election-related attack in this town.

Two gunmen shot and killed SPO2 Apolinario Dinong, chief investigator of PNP-Banna, near the town hall on his way home from a night duty.

Col. Rolando Rabara, Ilocos Norte police director, said, Dinong had just left the police station at around 9:30 p.m. Saturday when two gunmen flagged him down from his motorcycle.

"The suspects could be known to the victim because he was shot in the back while he was probably talking to one of them," Rabara said.

The victim suffered several gunshot wounds in the head from an M-16 Armalite rifle. The gunmen also took his service pistol when they fled.

Rabara said the police are looking at personal rivalry as a possible motive in the killing.

Dinong was a known supporter of Abadilla Sr., whose son, Vice Mayor Carlito Abadilla Jr., is running for mayor. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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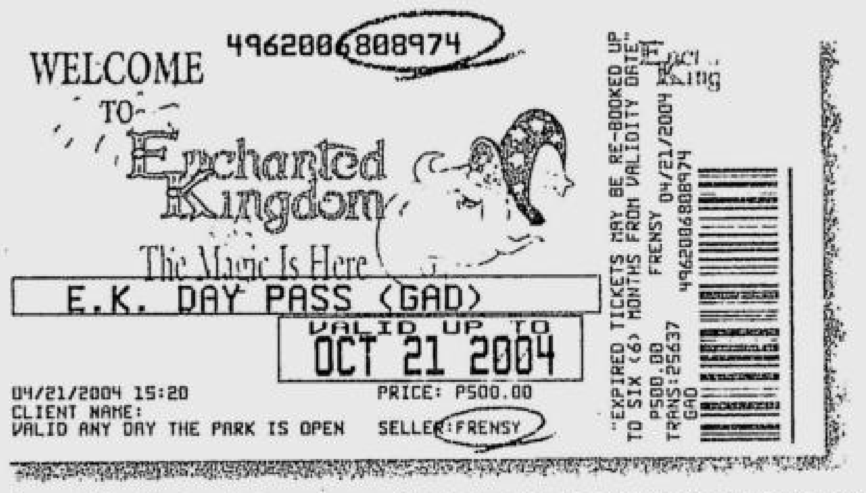

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PNOC to pursue geothermal drilling dormant for 24 yrs

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Due to the growing demand for electricity, the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has decided to revive its geothermal exploration project in Dauin, Negros Oriental, that has been dormant for 24 years.

Wilfredo Algopera, resident manager of PNOC-EDC's Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field, said the PNOC has set aside some P50 million for drilling and other related activities in Sitio Bidjao, Barangay Magsaysay, Dauin, a town 14 km south of here.

The project will begin next year, he said.

The PNOC conducted drilling activities in two sites in Dauin in 1980 and found a "promising prospect" in Bidjao. But the development of the area as a geothermal site was temporarily set aside because of the presence of sulfur in the well, Algopera said.

The scientists hired by PNOC-EDC were, however, confident that the sulfur was only found in the shallower portion of the well which, he said, could be remedied by drilling deeper.

With the availability of modern technology, the problem could now be solved, Algopera added.

Algopera said experts have estimated that some 40 megawatts (MW) of geothermal energy could be harnessed in Bidjao. This projection will be confirmed once the drilling continues, he said.

PNOC-EDC will only go into full blast development and production activities in the area if it can produce at least 20 MW of geothermal power in order that the venture can be viable, he said.

PNOC-EDC, he added, had long wanted to continue its exploration project in Dauin but this did not materialize due to other priorities. However, with the estimated 9 percent increase of demand for electricity every year in the Visayas alone, as projected by the National Power Corp., the PNOC-EDC was all the more encouraged to explore geothermal energy sources.

In the event that more drillings are needed, Algopera said the PNOC-EDC would need partners. Along this line, the Department of Energy is now inviting investors for the undertaking, he said.

LIFELINE PDI PHOTO
Children carrying claim stubs fall in line for their ration of food for the day in an evacuation center in Pikit, North Cotabato. Photo was taken in May last year.

Traders find population not on poll agenda

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Businessmen are lamenting the lack of grasp of candidates on population management especially as an electoral issue.

When asked their program or stand on population issues, most candidates invited to a recent forum here either offered vague responses or answered out of the topic.

"They gave very general statements that were non-committal," said Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the committee on population, corporate social responsibility and governance of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (PCCII).

In the forum dubbed "Business and Politics Convergence in Population and Development" held last Thursday, eight candidates running for various posts in the province and city of Iloilo were given 10 minutes each to discuss their platform and views on how population affects business and regional development and the role of government and the private sector in population management.

The candidates who spoke included candidates for congressman of Iloilo City: councilor Raul Gonzales Jr., lawyer Romeo Gerochi and former Rep. Rafael Lopez-Vito. Also present were reelectionist Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. and Iloilo City mayoral candidates reelectionist Mayor Jerry Trenas, Vice Mayor Victor Facultad and city councilor Rita Bascos-Sarabia.

Tupas said population growth has aggravated poverty especially in the coastal villages since he came to office three years ago. "I have seen how fast population growth has put more pressure on resources and ability to provide basic services to our people."

Other candidates described the situation as "a problem that should be met" (Gerochi) because "economic growth is being lost to population growth" (Lopez-Vito).

But few zeroed in on polices that they plan to implement when they are elected.

Gerochi said the problem is a "muddled situation" that could be addressed with the "convergence of motivation of couples."

Lopez-Vito admitted that he was not an expert on the issue and said he will seek the advice of experts and follow the policies of the national government.

Facultad discussed the platform of government of his slate while Sarabia, the lone woman candidate present, spent her time blaming her colleagues in the city council for blocking the passage of a gender and family code that she sponsored.

Asked on the impact of the stand of the Catholic Church on their stand and policies, most of the candidates offered "safe" answers.

Facultad said he was a pro-life advocate and wants to review the city's population management program "because they are promoting a lot of artificial methods."

Mindoro folk blame extreme heat on coal manufacturing

CALAPAN CITY—Bulalacao town, the southernmost part of Oriental Mindoro, has been experiencing intense heat because of charcoal manufacturing in the last five years, said Dexter Gonzales, a government employee and community youth leader.

About 10 barangays, including the poblacion, out of the 15 barangays are affected, he said.

Even the watershed and mangrove areas were also severely affected, Gonzales said.

While the Sangguniang Bayan of Bulalacao has passed a resolution to stop giving permits for commercial charcoal manufacturing, this has not been strictly implemented.

Gonzales said hardwood like *duhat* and narra are being used in making charcoal.

"There are still people transporting (charcoal)," he said.

A truck carries about 500 sacks of charcoal and this happens twice a week.

A sack of charcoal is bought at P40 from the producer and the trader sells it for P100 in Manila and other places.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Pablo Santos, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Forest Management Service chief, said an order was already issued to stop the issuance of permits to transport charcoal two or three years ago.

His office has also instructed the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Bulalacao to coordinate with the mayor to address complaints on the intense heat blamed on charcoal making.

The issue, Santos claimed, is the implementation of the local government unit (LGU) in 1998 of a memorandum on forest management of devolved areas.

"There should be a memorandum of agreement between the DENR and the LGU," he said. But they still have to meet after the elections.

The local Church has also expressed concern on the issue of charcoal making and recommended its regulation.

To dissuade residents from pursuing this economic activity, the local government has launched a small-scale livelihood program. But, according to Bulalacao residents, 'there is really no political will to provide financial assistance to them.

Santos said disunity caused by politics in the Sangguniang Bayan can also be the reason charcoal making continues without regulation.

On reports that some Mangyans are involved, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples provincial officer Karen Ignacio said charcoal making is a source of livelihood among the Mangyans but they only do it on a small scale and not for commercial purposes. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Eagle bred in captivity released to home in wild

DAVAO CITY—Three days after "Kabayan," the eagle bred in captivity, reluctantly flew out of his 10-feet steel cage, he was monitored some 500 meters northeast of his release site inside the reservation area of the Philippine National Oil Company on Mt. Apo on Friday.

"Kabayan," the first captive-bred eagle released to the wild, was tracked down through a satellite telemetry, a small backpack radio transmitter that was attached to the bird.

Field researchers of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) has been monitoring the one-year and five months male eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) since its release on Thursday, Earth Day.

Acquainting

The PEF said that "Kabayan" is continuously acquainting himself with his new surroundings. PEF biologists received a signal from "Kabayan" indicating that he was within six kilometers from the monitoring teams.

He was seen resting on different trees and stayed there until Friday.

The eagle's release was the first in Asia.

"This will serve as input to the drafting of a full reintroduction program to augment eagle populations in the wild," the PEF said in a statement.

For the PEF, Kabayan's release was the gift of years of efforts to boost the dwindling eagle population in the wild.

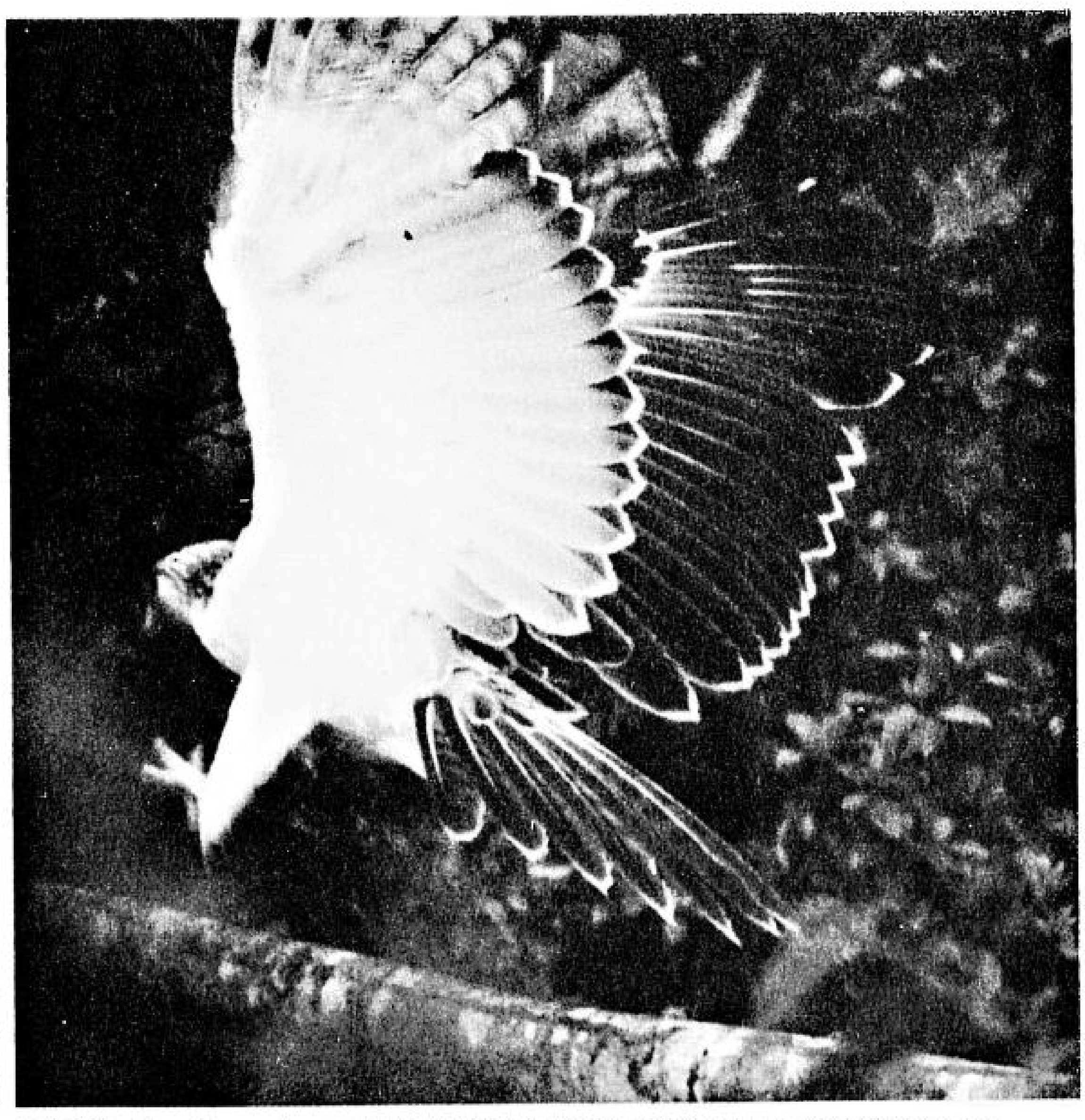
Kabayan, an eagle bred and hatched in captivity, was the first of such species to be put back into the wild, where only about 500 pairs of eagles are said to remain.

Home

PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador said they decided to hold the release at the PNOC's reservation site because there had been reported sightings of Philippine eagles there.

"The area based on our field research is home to Philippine Eagle. There were reported sightings in this area," Salvador told the INQUIRER.

Biologists, researchers and volunteers will be staying inside the PNOC-EDC reservation area to monitor Kabayan's activities and progress for the next five months. *Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



BACK into the wild goes the country's first bred-in-captivity eagle, a triumph for efforts to save whatever remains of the country's dwindling eagle population. PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Ecija mayor says raid on his house by cops 'harassment'

CABANATUAN CITY—Mayor Cesar Eduardo of Jaen town bewailed the raid by 50 policemen on his house and the houses of his brother and another resident of his town, saying it was "harassment."

The raid, conducted at 6 a.m. on Tuesday last week, was reportedly meant to recover an alleged cache of illegal guns. But only the firearms of Eduardo's police escorts were found and seized by the raiding team.

Eduardo said the raiding team came from the regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit and the Regional Mobile Group based in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

Senior Insp. George Santiago, Jaen police chief, said the raid was not coordinated with him or provincial police officials.

Santiago said the guns seized from Eduardo's police security escorts were covered with proper permits.

In Camp Olivas, Senior Supt. Paul Mascarinas, CIDU regional chief, said Eduardo should not cry harassment because the search in his house was carried out with a court-issued warrant and in an orderly manner.

"I talked to the mayor and he said he had no complaint about our search or how CIDU agents conducted it," Mascarinas told the INQUIRER.

According to him, the police checked the house to confirm reports that the mayor harbored members of the Red Vigilante Group, a hit squad of former New People's Army rebels. They reportedly sleep in the official's house.

The CIDU team, he said, found no suspected RVG members in the house but recovered at least four M-16 Armalite rifles and a 9 mm gun purportedly belonging to the security men of Eduardo.

But Eduardo said the search warrant, issued by a Guimba, Nueva Ecija court, was a "general search warrant" and did not specify the place or places in his house or yard to be searched.

He said the guns seized from his police escorts were exempted from the firearms ban of the Commission on Elections.

Also raided were the houses of Eduardo's brother, Rodolfo, president of the Association of Barangay Captains of Jaen, and Jessie Antonio, a candidate for councilor.

Eduardo, who is running for reelection under the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane), suspected that his political enemies gave the police wrong information about the supposed unlicensed guns that he was keeping. *Anselmo Roque with reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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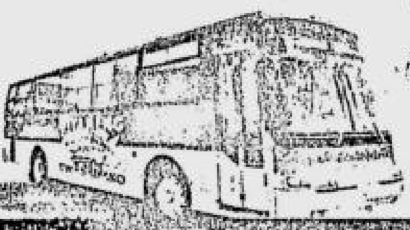

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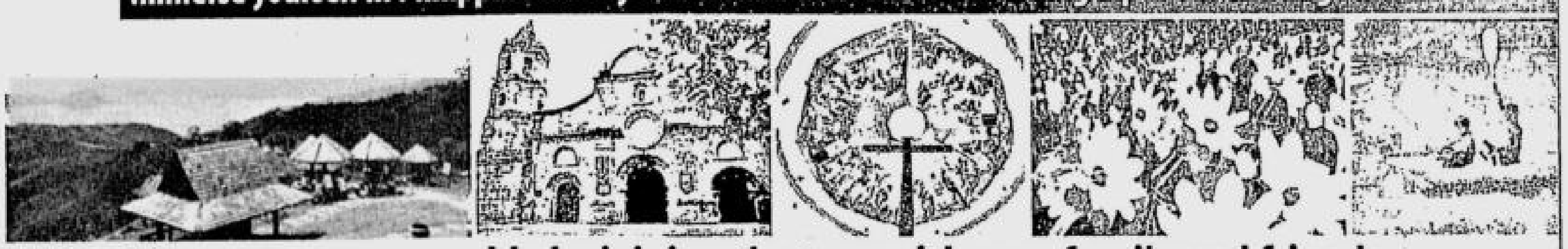

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Mangyan orphan top high school graduate

From page A1

while. He resigned himself to a life of planting corn, but after witnessing how a drought wiped out a season's crop, he decided to resume his studies.

Last March, 17-year-old Banjo topped the graduating class in Tugdaan School, which has won several awards for its alternative systems. The 157 high school graduates came from six of the seven Mangyan tribes on Mindoro Island.

Aside from the title "valedictorian," Banjo received three other awards—Best in Academics, Best in Leadership and the Tugdaan Award for overall achievement, which nobody in the past three years had won.

"Compared to other Mangyans in school, he has proven to be exceptionally intelligent," said Sr. Lilia Frondoza, a member of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (MIC), his elementary school supervisor and, to this day, his devoted guardian.

Orphan

All of Banjo's six brothers and four sisters died in infancy. He was the 10th child.

"Malayo ang duktor at ospital sa amin sa bundok, isang araw na lakad (The doctor and hospital are hard to reach from our place in the mountain, a full day's walk)," said Banjo.

In March 1991, his mother died giving birth to what would have been her 12th child, but it was stillborn. After three months, his father died of malaria.

Following every death, the family would move to another house to leave behind what they believed were "bad spirits." After his mother's death, Banjo was placed in the care of his father's sister, Lauren Elias, who married Anto Mongkokan four years later.

As a child, Banjo was called Ungo Elias and treated like a member of the Mongkokan family.

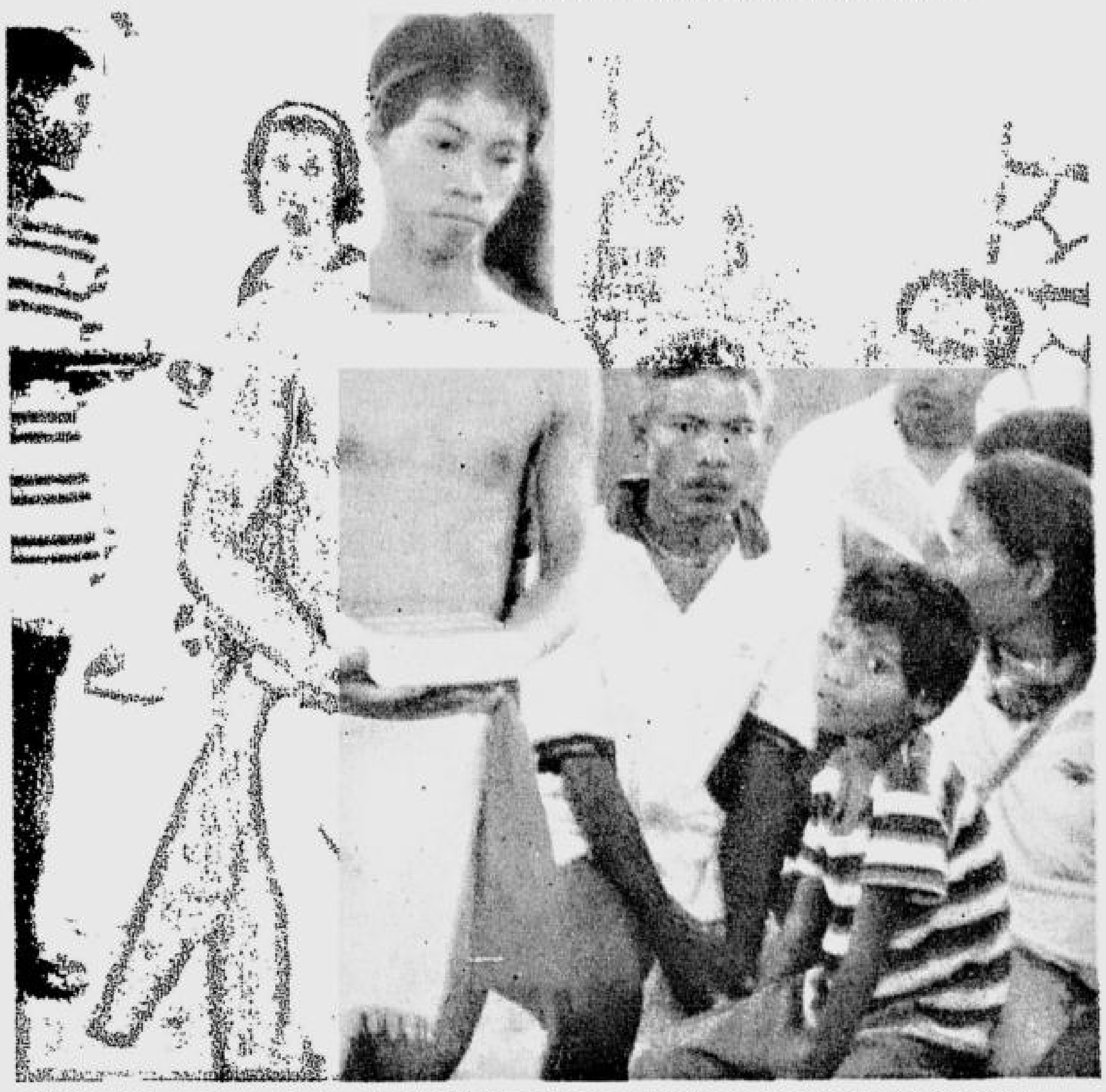
When he started schooling at five years old, he carried the name Baltik Mongkokan. His most vivid memory of that year in Grade 1 was being sent out of the classroom because he didn't speak Filipino. After a cousin taught him the language, his academic capabilities quickly surfaced. His teachers found him a scholarship.

"They told me to go to school in the town proper," Banjo recalled. In 1993, at 6 years old, he was enrolled in the Siapo Elementary School. He stayed with Mongkokan's father Balbas.

The following year, he was transferred along with several others to the Sta. Cruz Central School, where the missionary sisters administered the Mangyan people's scholarship program.

In Grade 4, Baltik's problems started. His classmates made fun of his name and he was so affected by this that his academic performance suffered. The MIC left the program in 1996 to a Japanese nongovernment organization called 21st Century Association.

Baltik was then in fifth grade, working double time to make up for his poor standing the previous school year. By this time, he had been placed in the stewardship of a Japanese sponsor, Hiruyuki Kawashima, who took great pride in the boy's being at the top of his class.



BANJO Quirino, who used to be called Baltik Mongkokan, graduates as the valedictorian of his high school class at the Tugdaan School in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finishing sixth grade, Baltik got a grade of 97 percent in the National Entrance Admission Test for high school. He was 11.

Name change

Almost a teenager, Baltik experienced more problems with his name. Even out-of-school youths in the community took to calling him "Baltok" in a way that he described as "hurting." He dreaded going back to school.

But Sister Frondoza, who had become like a mother to Baltik, had found him another scholarship, this time via a program of the Immaculate Conception Academy Alumni Association in the Tugdaan School.

For a while it seemed that Baltik was fine, although he had to stay with yet another set of guardians, since his love for studying was being further enhanced in Tugdaan, known for a holistic and functional curriculum rooted in culture and values. But in second-year high, the teasing became too much. He stopped going to school, stayed with Frondoza in Sta. Cruz, and planted corn.

He eventually reconsidered, but to make things a little easier on him, the nun brought the boy to lawyer Alfredo Tejada to help him change his name. "Banjo Quirino" was Baltik's choice.

"I enjoy studying," said Banjo. His inspiration is the country's first Mangyan lawyer, Zosimo Evangelista, whose success story he read about in the INQUIRER. Evangelista graduated from the Manuel L. Quezon University College of Law with academic and leadership awards.

"My dream is to help my fellow Mangyan, particularly in their land problems," Banjo said. He has been exposed to many cases of Mangyan land being grabbed. Frondoza's house was burned down by illegal loggers during the boy's stay with her. He said he was "deeply troubled."

Even so, he landed on top of his sophomore class, and the year after that, and again this year.

Banjo wants to go to college, but Frondoza has to find yet another sponsor. She is become more worried with each passing day.

"School will soon reopen, but I haven't found anyone," she said. "I have spoken to some people, but I haven't received a single pledge." Those who wish to help Banjo realize his dream may get in touch with her, by calling (0916) 487-3929.

Osmeñas mark centenary in public service this year

From page A1

1944.

Much of that political skill has been passed on to the three generations of Osmeña descendants who continue to remain in power in Cebu and wield influence, not just in the region but also in much of the Cebuano-speaking world.

Of the other families that have dominated local politics in the rest of Cebu province, the Abines family controls southern Cebu, the Durano and Martinez families the north of the province, and the Ouanos, Mandaue City.

Cebu

This year marks the centenary in public service of the Osmeñas, the oldest and strongest of Cebu's political clans.

The family's political dominance started in 1904 when the patriarch, Sergio Osmeña Sr., won the Cebu governorship, the first of many elective positions that he would hold.

Osmeña Sr. was a lawyer and newspaper editor before involving himself in local politics, starting out as a councilor. While governor of Cebu, he ran for election to the first Philippine Assembly of 1907 and was elected Speaker of that body. Only 29 at the time, Osmeña Sr. was already the highest-ranking Filipino official.

He and another provincial politician, Manuel Quezon of Tayabas, set up the Nacionalista Party as a foil to the Partido Federalista of Manila-based politicians. The two would engage in a rivalry for political dominance ever since.

Osmeña Sr. was elected senator and remained so until 1922. He was the country's vice president for two consecutive terms under the Philippine Commonwealth. He served as president from 1944 to 1946.

The Osmeñas were one of the elite families that the dictator Ferdinand Marcos went after in 1972. The family was forced into political exile during martial law but was firmly back in power after the democratic restoration in 1986.

Today, the third- and fourth-generation members of the Osmeña clan remain influential players in both national and local politics, though they're not always on good terms with one another.

Four are running for office in May: John Henry, known as "Sonny," is seeking reelection to the Senate under the administration slate; John Gregory "John-John," Sonny's son and the incumbent vice governor, is running for governor, also with the K-4; Tomas is seeking reelection as mayor of Cebu City; Jose Mari, a businessman based in northern Cebu, is also running for governor against his nephew John-John.

Emilio, the younger brother of Sonny and former governor of Cebu, heads Promdi, one of three political parties backing the presidential bid of Raul Roco.

Sergio III and Tomas are the sons of the late Sergio Jr., or "Serging," the fifth son of Sergio Sr., who was successively mayor, congressman and senator. Serging came close to following his father to the presidency in 1969 but lost to Marcos.

Sergio III is a senator who has a mandate up to 2007.

Tomas will again face his erstwhile ally, former city mayor Alvin Garcia, whom he defeated in 2001.

Garcia belongs to another influential political clan in Cebu. His uncle, Pablo Garcia, has been a three-term governor of Cebu. Pablo, a former congressman, has given up public office but is fielding his eldest daughter, Gwendolyn, in the race for governor.

Other Osmeñas have run for public office in previous elections. Former Cebu City Vice Mayor Renato Osmeña did not seek reelection in 2001. His brother, Rogelio, lost his reelection bid for city council on that same year.

The Abineses are a large and feuding clan that has controlled the fishing industry in Cebu's southeast since the 1950s and has monopolized public office there since the 1970s.

Their business interests have expanded to include retail, banking, public transport and terminal facilities.

The clan has a firm grip on its bailiwicks in the second congressional district, but family members are known to fight among themselves for control of municipal positions.

In the May elections, eight Abineses are running for public office. In the family's Oslob hometown, Apolonio Abines, the former vice governor, is running against his nephew, incumbent Mayor Emilito. The town's vice mayor, Regino, the brother of Apolonio, is running for reelection. Lourdes, the wife of Apolonio, is running for municipal councilor.

In Samboan town, John Carl is running for mayor. His father Crisologo, the former congressman of the second district, is running for mayor of Santander with his son, James Abines, as running mate. Estudita Abines Dee, Crisologo's sister, is running for municipal councilor of Santander.

Northeastern Cebu is the political fiefdom of the Durano clan, which has held power in the towns there for more than 50 years, beginning in 1949 when patriarch Ramon Durano Sr. was elected congressman of the first district. Except for a brief period after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, the family has continued to hold on to the congressional seat as they have the mayoralty of the clan's hometown of Danao City.

The city, a center for the manufacture of the *paltik*, or homemade guns, became "no-man's-land" during elections from the 1960s onward because of the fearsome warlord reputation of Durano Sr., who was accused of reinforcing his family's political and economic power through a private army.

Durano Sr. managed to establish dominance over the area as a guerrilla officer during World War II. But the family's political influence apparently goes further back to the end of Spanish rule. In the late 1890s, Durano's father Demetrio became a *juez de paz* (justice of the peace) of Danao.

Like his father, Durano Sr. was a trader while engaging in local politics, becoming councilor in the 1930s. He first ran for the first district congressional seat in 1941 and was defeated. He ran again in 1949 and won. Throughout his rise, Durano Sr. was forming political alliances, initially with the Cuencos, the main political rivals of the Osmeñas, that would help the clan in exerting a wider influence over provincial politics.

The tightly knit clan disintegrated and broke up into competing factions after Durano Sr. died sometime in the 1980s, but it remains a political force to reckon with in the region.

Durano family members are contesting most of the electoral positions in the north in May. Like the Abineses, clan members are mostly running against one another.

Rep. Ace Durano is running against Rosemarie Durano Dira, his first cousin, for the fifth district congressional seat.

Three Duranos—brothers Jesus and Ramonito III and their nephew Cesar—are fighting it out for the mayoral seat in Danao.

Ramon Jr., the brother of Jesus and Ramon III, is running against his nephew, Ramon V, the son of Jesus, for vice mayor. There are also two Duranos running for councilor: cousins Alicia and Thomas Mark.

In Sogod town, Thadeo, another brother of Ramonito and Jesus, is running for mayor while his daughter Liza Marie Durano Quinakhan is running for vice mayor.

Another influential political clan in the north is the Martinez family which controls the town of Bogo.

Agriculture Undersecretary Celestino Martinez, a former three-term representative of the fourth district, is running for governor. His wife, incumbent Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez, is seeking reelection. Their son, Celestino "Tining" Jr., is seeking reelection as Bogo mayor.

The Ouanos are the political overlords of Mandaue, Cebu's industrial hub and gateway to Mactan Island. The incumbent mayor, Thadeo, took over in 2001 from his father, Alfredo, who has been in politics for decades and was the city's mayor for three terms. Thadeo is seeking reelection.

His sister, Joy, is running for the sixth-district congressional seat. Another member of the clan, Alfie, is running for councilor of Consolacion town.

Negros Oriental

In Negros Oriental, the dominant political power holders are the Paras, Arnaiz, Teves and Macias families.

Reelectionist Rep. Jacinto Paras began his political career as the appointive officer in charge (OIC) mayor of Guihulngan in 1986. In 1988, his brother Jerome won the congressional seat for the first district and served for three terms until 1998. Jacinto then took over the district and is now seeking a third term.

Another brother, Joselito, was elected councilor of Guihulngan in 1998 and went on to a provincial board seat in 2001. He is now running for vice mayor of Guihulngan.

The Arnaizes control Pamplona town. Gov. George Arnaiz, who is running for a third term, is the brother of Apolonio Jr., the mayor of Pamplona, who is also running for reelection.

Their father Apolonio Sr., the town's former mayor, is currently serving as a provincial board member representing the Association of Barangay Captains. Apolonio Jr.'s son, Jericho, is councilor of Pamplona, representing the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Jimalalud town is the domain of the Tuandas. Reynaldo Tuanda Sr., who served as OIC mayor in 1986, was elected to the position in 1988 and served for three terms until 1998. He took a three-year break, fielding his son, Reynaldo Tuanda Jr., a former SK chair and town councilor, in the mayoral race. Tuanda Sr. is again making a run for the position this year.

During his stint as mayor, Tuanda Jr. appointed his father as secretary to the mayor. Tuanda Sr. then initiated a successful recall petition against Vice Mayor Genesis Estorco.

In the special elections of 2000, Tuanda Sr. ran and won and became his son's vice mayor. In 2001, Tuanda Sr. ran for Congress against Jacinto Paras, while his wife Wilhelmina Cordova-Tuanda ran for mayor. They both lost.

Rep. Herminio Teves is seeking a second term in the third district that he took over from his son, Margarito, who was congressman for three straight terms from 1988 to 1998. The elder Teves was OIC governor of Negros Oriental from 1986 until 1998. He was also congressman from 1964 until 1973.

Rep. Emilio Macias II is running for a third term in the second district. His son Erwin is seeking a second term as provincial board member.

Before his congressional stint, Macias served for three successive terms as governor from 1988 until 1998. He was a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention and was later elected vice governor from 1977 until 1984 when he became a Batasang Pambansa member. Macias is a son of Lamberto Macias, who represented Negros Oriental's second district from 1954 until 1972.

In Canlaon City, Jose Cardenas served as OIC mayor in 1986 and was subsequently elected to the position in 1988. He served as mayor for three terms until 1998, after which he ran and won as vice mayor, serving for one term until 2001.

His sister Jessica was also elected councilor in 1998. In April 2001, Jose, who was running for mayor, and Jessica, who was running for reelection, were killed in an ambush just before the elections. Jose's wife Juliet ran in his stead and won. She is now seeking reelection, running against, among other candidates, Dr. Seigfred Cardenas, her husband's brother.

In La Libertad, Lawrence Limkaichiong was elected mayor in 1998. He won a second term in 2001. Instead of running for a third and last term this year, he is fielding his wife, Josie Sy-Limkaichiong, who is unopposed.

Bindoy town is ruled by the brother-and-sister tandem of Mayor Valente Yap and Vice Mayor Rosa Yap-Paras, whose husband was an ex-mayor. Both are running for reelection.

In Amlan town, running unopposed for mayor and vice mayor are reelectionist Mayor Victoriano de la Cruz and son Bentham de la Cruz, who is running for a first term.

In Dumaguete City, Mayor Agustin Perdices is running for reelection. Perdices served as mayor for three successive terms from 1988 until 1998. He took a break for three years and was returned as mayor in 2001. His sister, Antonia Perdices-Templo, is running for a seat in the city council.

Siquijor

In Siquijor, the Fua clan has been for nearly two decades the political power holders in the island-province of 85,000 people (voting population: 52,000).

The political influence of the Fuas started 17 years ago when Orlando Fua Sr., a lawyer, was appointed OIC governor after the Edsa Revolution.

In 1988, Fua ran for governor and won. He was at the helm of the provincial capitol for three terms.

In the 1995 election, three Fuas successfully ran for office. Fua Sr., who was ineligible to run for another gubernatorial term, went for the lone congressional seat of the province, while his son Orlando Jr. ran for governor. Another son, Orville, ran for vice mayor of Lazi town. They all won.

In the 1998 presidential election, the elder Fua ran for governor again and was able to reclaim his seat. Orlando Jr. became the congressman while Orville was elected mayor.

The elder Fua did not run in the 2001 elections but Orlando Jr. ran for governor and Orville sought reelection. Both won.

In the May elections, Fua Sr. wants to reclaim his seat as governor to be vacated by his son Orlando Jr., who is running again for congressman. Orville is seeking another term as mayor of Lazi.

Other Fuas have also entered the political arena. Marcelo, the brother of Orlando Sr., is running as an independent candidate for vice mayor. Richard Fua Dunggon and Anthony Fua Yu are running for municipal council seats. Both are the nephews of Orlando Sr. *Jolene R. Bulambot and Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

FOUR DIGIT
1 4 4 8
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
0 6 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
1 3 17 28 41 43

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Fire leaves 200 families homeless in QC

A BIG fire swept through a densely-populated area in Quezon City Sunday night, leaving at least 200 families homeless.

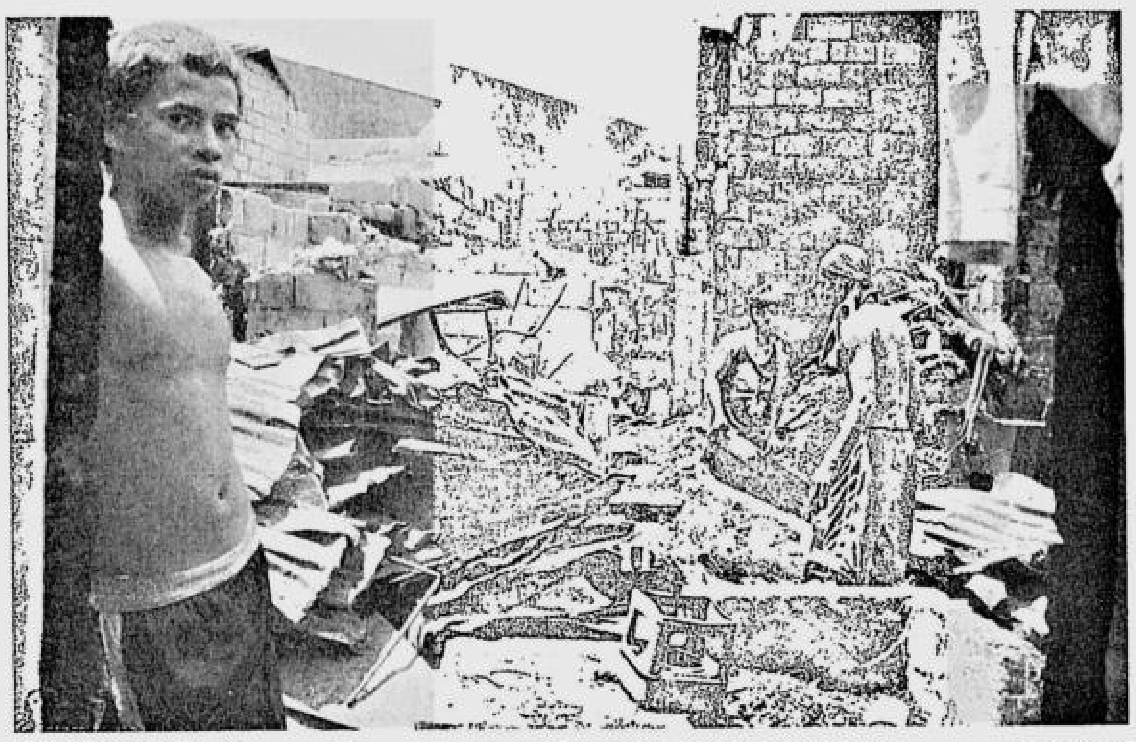
Insp. Samuel Tadeo said the fire broke out around 8:30 p.m. at the second floor of the two-story house of Celestino Nabong on J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay San Roque, Proj. 4.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the four-hour fire, which reached Task Force Echo.

However, several residents claimed that the fire could have been the result of the rampant illegal connection of electricity in the area.

The fire was put out at 12:14 a.m., Tadeo said.

No one was reported injured in the fire, which gutted about P5 million worth of property.



RESIDENTS of the fire-swept barangay salvage whatever they can from the ruins. JOAN BONDOC

Traffic clogged

Firefighters had a difficult time putting off the fire as it quickly devoured the shanties in the area which were made of light materials.

Panicking residents and responding fire trucks also clogged traffic in the area.

Affected families, some carrying appliances, bags of clothes and other things they managed to save from their burning houses, spent the night in Camp Aguinaldo Elementary School, barangay watchman Ismael Loyola said.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fire Protection has noted a 6.5 percent decline in fire incidents last month.

In a press statement, the BFP said only 1,251 fire incidents were reported last month nationwide compared to the 1,338 fires that were recorded for the same period last year.

Damage to property caused by last month's fire was estimated to be around P383.9 million, down from P717.7 million last year.

However, BFP records showed that 26 persons were killed and 48 others were injured in fire incidents last March, observed annually as fire prevention month.

The records further showed that the National Capital Region (NCR) had the most number of fire incidents with 565, followed by Region 4-A with 222, and Region 6 with 71.

The Ilocos and Eastern Visayas Regions, on the other hand, had only one fire incident each for the whole month of March. *Tina Santos, Edson Tandoc Jr., Nelson Flores*

Metro cops ready for May polls

By Tina Santos

NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Ricardo de Leon yesterday assured that Metro Manila policemen are ready to respond to different election-related incidents during the national and local elections next month.

De Leon's assurance came following the conclusion of a series of inspections he made around the five police districts for the operational preparedness of all police personnel.

As part of the security inspection, district-level command post exercises were set up where the different districts demonstrated their response to at least three scenarios before and during the elections.

During the exercise, the districts displayed how they would respond to different election-related incidents, such as lightning mass protest actions, ballot snatching cases and terrorist attacks.

De Leon also said that all aspects of security, including the concerns of the smallest units in the NCRPO, such as post-election problems that may arise, were fully addressed during the microconferences held at each of the five police districts.

"We want every nook and cranny of Metro Manila secured for the May polls," De Leon said.

He also emphasized that police teams will be deployed to secure the 843 polling centers and the more than five million registered voters in the NCR who are expected to vote on May 10.

Mayoral bet wants soldiers to replace cops

WITH less than two weeks before the elections, a mayoral bet wants police commanders in Malabon City temporarily substituted by military officers until the elections are over.

Though he did not directly accuse the city police of playing favorites, Canuto Oreta said yesterday that deploying additional soldiers in the city would be better.

Oreta is running for mayor against Jeannie Sandoval, Melencio Roxas Jr. and acting mayor Jayjay Yambao.

According to radio reports, the Commission on Elections is considering to declare the city as an election hotspot. But Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco said Malabon City remained peaceful.

But Oreta said the situation in the city might worsen if the harassment his camp had been facing would continue. He said some of his supporters had received threats. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Larry 'Pipoy' Silva, TV sitcom actor, dies at 66

SILVA

By Tarra Quismundo

LARRY "Pipoy" Silva, a character actor known mostly for his stint in the television sitcom "Okay Ka, Fairy Ko!", died on Sunday. He was 66.

Silva, a three-term councilor in Manila's third district, succumbed to kidney failure. He had been undergoing dialysis for two years.

Lawyer Cesario Salvacion, a close friend, told the INQUIRER that Silva was still thinking of his job at the City Council even before he died at 4 a.m.

The former amateur boxer was born Hilarion Silva on Oct. 21, 1937. His wife Annie, who shared the stage with him as Pipay in fiesta shows in the '70s, was beside his bed at the Ospital ng Maynila, when Pipoy died.

With her, Pipoy left behind his five kids: daughters Larsil, 25, Larisa, 24, and Larry Ann, 3, and his two namesakes Hilarion II, nicknamed L.S. (Larry Silva), 18, and Hilarion III, called P.S.(Pipoy Silva).

It was his youngest son's birthday yesterday, which the 14-year-old and his family spent at the Lopez Funeral Homes on Bulacan Street in Sta. Cruz, where Pipoy was brought.

His remains would be cremated on Thursday, following necrological services at the City Hall.

Inside the same hall, Pipoy spent three terms as among six councilors of the Sta. Cruz and Binondo district, serving from 1995 until this year.

His wife is now seeking to take his place, running for councilor under the Liberal Party, of which he had been a member since 1998.

MMDA to build holding rooms for drunk drivers

By Margaux Ortiz

MOTORISTS now have a reason to avoid drinking and driving.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has ordered the construction of a separate room inside the agency's road emergency stations and detachments to temporarily detain motorists caught driving under the influence of liquor.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the apprehended drivers will be kept inside the room for six to eight hours, "or until they sober up."

"We have to continuously ensure the safety of our roads, and this means keeping drunk drivers off the streets," Lacuna said.

He stressed that the detention areas will contain chairs and deprived of amenities like beds and television sets.

Lacuna said the drivers would still be charged with driving under the influence of liquor and fined P2,000 for the first, second and third offenses.

Bayad Center loses P100,000

A BAYAD Center branch in Caloocan City lost more than P170,000 to robbers who barged in the office during the weekend.

The theft was discovered about 7 a.m. yesterday when the tellers went to open the office in A. Mabini Street, Maypajo, Caloocan City, police reported yesterday.

Branch owner Ramil Pascual told the city police that when his tellers went to open their office yesterday, they noticed that the door's padlocks had been destroyed. Inside, the vault was already open.

Pascual said they lost P136,696 cash and P43,756 worth of checks, all payments for phone, electric, telephone, cable, water and insurance bills of their clients.

The branch was closed on Saturday and Sunday. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

PLDT, SMART WIN 5 GOLD QUILL AWARDS
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its mobile phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. won five awards in the Gold Quill Awards Philippines 2004 organized by the Philippine chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators recently. Receiving the awards are (L-R): Anthony O. Alcantara, senior publications assistant; Enrique P. Arboleda, media supervisor; Horace A. Lavides, senior manager for media services; Menardo G. Jimenez Jr., first vice president for media and corporate communications; Zoilo M. Sambalilo, senior publications assistant; and Louie L. Lopez, photographer.

Good news for Palanan residents

THE MAKATI City government has assured residents of Arellano Avenue and Madras Street in Barangay Palanan that they would no longer be exposed to deadly fumes and sickening noises brought by several trucks of a firm, whose franchise was cancelled and revoked by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) last year.

This developed as the Makati City Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals, led by Mayor Jejomar Binay, approved and issued a resolution recommending that ESC Trucking Service Corp. voluntarily remove its garage and repair shop at 4637 Arellano Avenue.

In the two-page resolution, the Board said the firm can no longer be allowed to operate in the area because of its nonconformity with the Makati City Zoning Ordinance and the resounding protest of the residents that its trucks had been breaking the peace and polluting the air in the neighborhood.

The resolution came several weeks after the LTFRB denied with finality the motion for reconsideration filed by Emmanuel Castillo, ESC Trucking owner. The residents expressed elation over the move. *Tina Santos*

Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.
709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Statement of Condition
As of March 23, 2004

ASSETS	AMOUNT:
Cash & Cash Items	P 34,961,895.24
Due From Bangko Sentral	12,417,207.10
Due From Other Banks	108,093,459.75
Interbank Loans Receivable	400,000,000.00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	399,011,534.16
Trading Accounts Securities Loans	87,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	18,740,794.39
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	102,349,429.06
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/ Acquired	72,070,708.62
Others	70,248,583.54
TOTAL ASSETS	P 1,304,893,611.86
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 78,384,137.42
Savings Deposits	671,399,134.85
Time Deposits	1,500,239.58
Due to BSP	305,494.51
Managers Check	3,162,278.86
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable	15,401,037.55
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits	1,165,624.37
Other Liabilities	26,795,885.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 798,113,832.31
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS :	
Capital Stock	P 441,000,000.00
Paid-In Surplus	2,222,444.00
Surplus Free	62,597,171.91
Undivided Profits	960,163.64
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 506,779,779.55
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 1,304,893,611.86
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS :	
Items Held For Safekeeping	P 5,884.00
Items Held As Collateral	12,521.00
Late Deposits / payments received	267,510.00
Deficiency Claims Receivable	1,434,382.42
Outward Bills for Collections	31,562.72
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 1,741,860.74

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

Prescribed Ratus of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	169.43 %	438.82 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 206)

Non-performing loans and	P 21,096,872.10
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio	2.41%
Classified loans and other risk assets	P 21,096,872.10
General loan loss reserve	P 9,640,728.00
Specific loan loss reserve	P 3,754,453.98
Return on equity (ROE)	4.54%
DOSRI loans/advances	P 10,841,246.17
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and	1.21%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio	N I L

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President

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Doc No 180
Page 38
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Series of 2004

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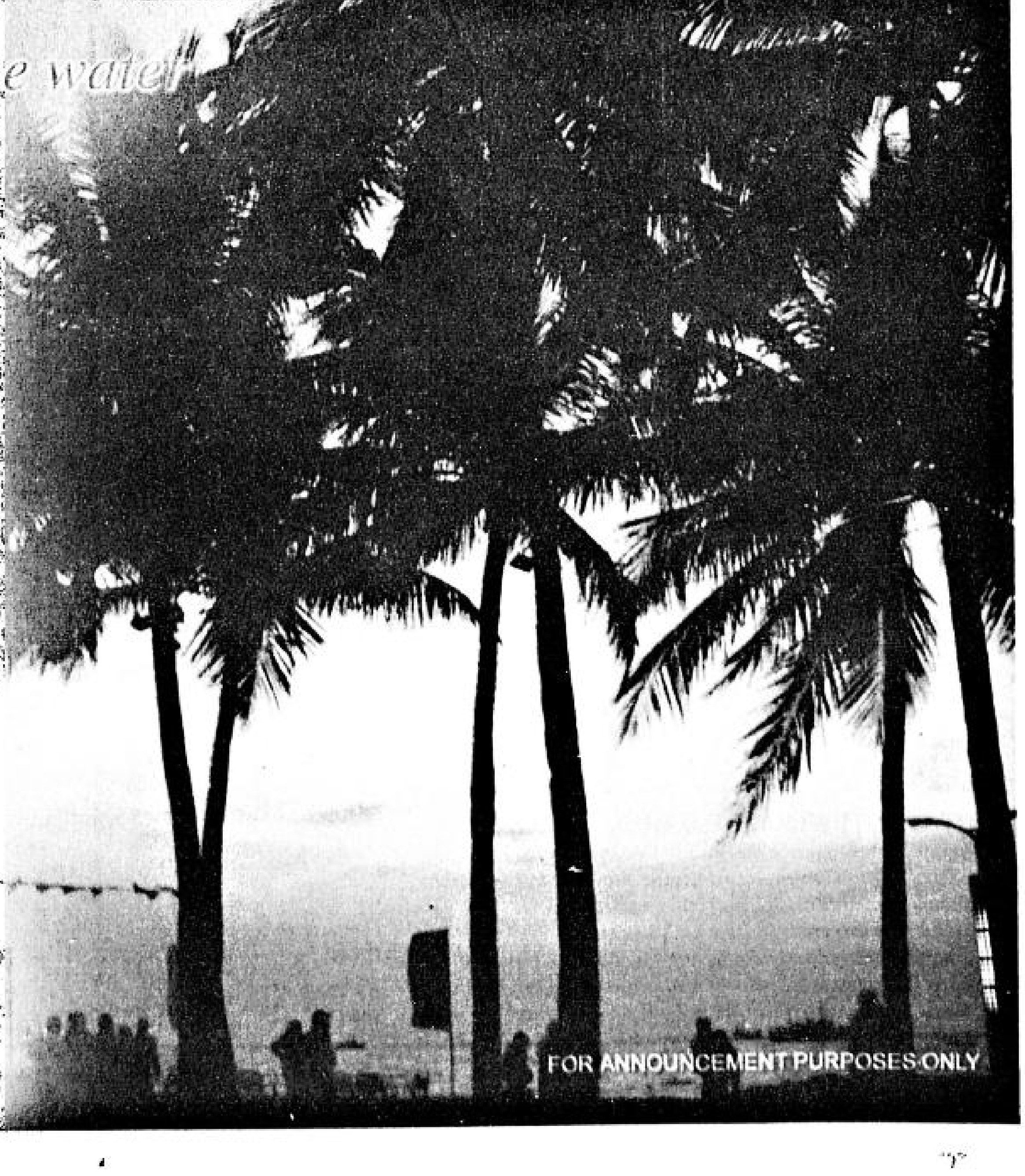
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Pasig LP throws out Bernardo for Romulo

By Luige del Puerto

TWO WEEKS before the May 10 polls, the Liberal Party (LP) in Pasig City junked congressional candidate and long-time member Lorna Bernardo for newcomer Roman Romulo, son of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"We are withdrawing support from Lorna Bernardo," lawyer Harold Banzuela said yesterday, citing a decision of the party's local executive committee.

"We are now supporting the candidacy of Roman Romulo," added Banzuela, a member of the LP's executive committee in Pasig, during a press conference at the party headquarters in Barangay Maybunga.

Difference in principles

Banzuela cited "differences in principles" and Bernardo's alleged lack of support for other LP candidates as the reasons behind the withdrawal of endorsement.

He also explained that the local Liberals found Romulo as the "fittest" among the candidates.

The decision caught Bernardo by surprise.

"It was all very sudden," she said over the phone. "I received a letter informing me of the decision. They did not (fully) explain why they are withdrawing support. They did not even talk to me."

The letter, dated April 24, was signed by Dr. Quirino del Rosario, the committee vice chair.

Bernardo belied claims that she had left her ticket out in the cold.

Liberal baby

"They have been with me campaigning every day," she said.

Bernardo grew up in the Liberal Party, where her mother, a councilor under then Mayor Caruncho, was also a member.

The withdrawal of support from Bernardo came after Romulo met with Liberal Party members Saturday night at the Ortigas Center.

Romulo sought the meeting to articulate his platforms for the city, local party officials said.

Romulo was sworn in as a Liberal Party member only in January. At the time, the national executive committee of the Liberal Party already picked Bernardo as its congressional candidate in Pasig City.

Gatlabayan cries harassment; cops ask 'When? Where?'

By Luige del Puerto

TENSION continues to rise in Antipolo City as Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan complained that armed men mauled one of his supporters Sunday.

In a statement released by the mayor's office, Gatlabayan said Peter Olayvar, an employee at the city's engineering office, was injured in the incident.

According to the statement, Olayvar was with two other city employees when they saw 10 men destroying posters of the mayor's wife, Josefina, in front of the San Benildo Integrated School on Marcos Highway at about 3 p.m.

Josefina is running for Congress against Ronaldo "Ronnie" Puno, a former cabinet official under President Joseph Estrada.

Olayvar and his companions called the attention of the men who instead allegedly attacked them.

The men, some of whom reportedly rode a Toyota Corolla with plate number TFT 288, allegedly got hold of Olayvar and mauled him.

One of the men reportedly hit Olayvar with a pistol, while another shoved the muzzle of a rifle into his stomach.

The victim was later treated at the Unciano General Hospital, where he reportedly received stitches to an open wound in the ear.

However, a check with the Antipolo police did not show any records of the incident.

Supt. Benjamin de los Santos, police chief, said they had not received a complaint from Olayvar or any report on the incident.

De los Santos said the police have been responding to various calls about mauling incidents but many seemed to be false alarms.

"*Pero wala kaming naaabutan,*" he said.

Nonetheless, the police chief offered information on the alleged shooting of a supporter of Puno also on Sunday.

When checked by the INQUIRER, however, the incident that involved barangay watchman Gil Montallana, 53, of Sitio Sagipin, Barangay de la Paz, was not politically motivated.

Reports said Montallana was on his way home around 4 p.m. when a group of drunk men invited him to a shot of liquor.

He refused, and was shot.

The policeman investigating the case said there was nothing political about the incident.

Gatlabayan earlier asked the Commission on Elections to place the city under its control because of potential election violence.

He also sought protection from the Army, saying he fears for the safety of his family. The mayor said the Army was "neutral."

10 nabbed for 'Mrs. Pidal' posters

ENTERPRISING PINOY
Taxi driver Timmy Rombon, 44, displays trinkets and other goods in his cab and sells these to his passengers in an effort to earn extra for his family. AFP

By Margaux Ortiz

IN A RARE move against illegally posted campaign materials, the police in Manila and Caloocan arrested 10 persons who were caught pasting "Mrs. Pidal" posters outside the designated areas.

Also, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) launched a campaign to remove illegally placed materials.

Nerio Balgame, 38, and Rey Buida, 27, both of Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila, were arrested at the corner of España Boulevard and Vicente Cruz Street in Sampaloc, Manila, at 11:45 p.m. Sunday.

Scary

The vehicle which they used, a white utility vehicle with license plate CNJ 630, was impounded.

Seized from Balgame and Buida were 10 cans of paste and a stack of so called "Mrs. Pidal" posters that bore the words "*Iboboto nyo po ba si Mrs. Jose Pidal? Nakakatakot po!* (Would you still vote for Mrs. Pidal? That would be scary!)."

The words were in yellow paint on a black background.

The two men told police that they were hired by a certain Tony Babula, reportedly a member of the People's Movement Against Poverty, to put up posters.

Jose Pidal

Jose Pidal was the name that Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of using to maintain a bank account where illegal funds were allegedly deposited.

Chief Insp. Arturo Paglinawan, head of the Western Police District General Assignment Section, said the men were arrested because they were putting up posters outside designated areas.

However, it was the first time that someone was arrested for violating the election rule in Sampaloc, which is littered with illegally placed campaign posters.

In Caloocan, members of the city Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management (DPSTM), collared eight persons pasting "Mrs. Pidal" posters at the corner of C3 Road and 6th Avenue in Barangay 36 at 12:15 a.m.

Black propaganda

DPSTM chief Augusto De Belen said his men accosted them for pasting posters outside Commission on Elections poster areas.

Apart from posting outside poster areas, city police chief Benjardi Mantele said the content of the posters was "scandalous and would only create trouble. It's black propaganda."

Since the local campaign period began last month, the city police had arrested only 20 persons (the eight arrested yesterday included) for violating the Comelec poster areas.

No politics

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando denied that politics and the proliferation of "Mrs. Pidal" posters had anything to do with their campaign to remove illegally posted campaign materials all over Metro Manila.

Fernando said the "Mrs. Pidal" posters were removed because they violated the provisions of the Fair Elections Act.

"The Commission on Elections deputized us to remove all illegal posters," Fernando stressed. "Removing illegal posters has been a continuing effort on our part."

Despite the claims of Fernando, illegally posted campaign materials are visible along almost all roads and thoroughfares in the metropolis.

MMDA to evict 50,000 on 'esteros'

By Margaux Ortiz

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando has told 50,000 illegal settlers to vacate areas near waterways or face forced evictions.

Fernando said they would have to dismantle shanties along *esteros* and other canals because of forecasts that the rains would come early this year.

"We have received reports that the rains will come in early May," Fernando said in his weekly radio program aired Sunday.

The MMDA chair said that despite the intensive de-clogging program of the MMDA during the summer, problems remained because of informal settlers that continue to live on *esteros* and block the waterways.

He said 50,000 illegal settlers live under the bridges, near rivers, canals and *esteros*, and even blocking drainage mains and pipes with their makeshift houses.

Fernando said they would evict hard-headed informal settlers in coordination with the local government unit and with the support of the Philippine National Police.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the illegal settlers living near waterways were not entitled to relocation because they were living in danger zones.

Lacuna added that the MMDA has finished 90 percent of its declogging, dredging and desilting program over the summer.

"We are hoping to complete the preparations by the second week of May," Lacuna said.

METROBRIEFS

William freed

ACTOR William Martinez was released from police custody yesterday after he was arrested on Saturday for possession of drug paraphernalia. Martinez was nabbed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on his way to Dipolog City. Police said Martinez was freed but would face further investigation. If found guilty, he could be jailed up to four years, according to Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, chief of the police task force on illegal drugs. *Michael Jobert I. Navallo*

Inmate dies

A YOUNG inmate at the Manila City Jail died Sunday due to severe stomach pain. Investigation by SPO4 Alfredo Salazar revealed that Sammy Piagsay, 21, who is behind bars for a frustrated murder case, was consulting with nurses at the jail's infirmary when he collapsed after complaining of a stomach ache. Jail officials rushed Piagsay to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, but was pronounced dead on arrival at 4:10 p.m. Salazar said Piagsay bore no signs of external injury. *Kate Pedroso*

2 cops held up

TWO POLICEMEN were the last victims of three alleged robbers yesterday in Manila. Police Officer 1 Albert Bucal and his fellow officer Ronald Taruc, assigned at the Regional Special Service Office (RSSO) at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, lost their wallets and cell phones worth P12,000 to four men and a woman who held them up on board a jeepney along Taft Avenue. The policemen tried to collar the suspects but they fought back. Two of the suspects were arrested, however, when policemen on patrol noticed the commotion in the jeepney. *Tarra Quismundo*

Wrong venue for Davide's speech

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN A speech before a conference of businessmen in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. assured foreign investors in the Philippines not to fear our judiciary.

The country's top magistrate said the recent decisions adversely affecting foreign investors—among them the voiding of the Piatco consortium's contract for the Naia 3 terminal—were meant to uphold the rule of law and ensure a level playing field in business in the Philippines.

How ironic that Davide had to make that assurance to foreign investors in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur was the wrong venue to make such an assurance.

I'm sure the Malaysian businessmen who listened to Davide's speech took it with a grain of salt.

For how could Malaysian businessmen forget what the high court did to their fellow investor in the Philippines some years back?

A couple of years ago, the high tribunal ruled that Manila Hotel should go to Filipino-Chinese businessman Emilio Yap and not to the Malaysian investor who had won in the bidding to buy the country's oldest first class hotel.

Yap had lost in the bidding to the Malaysian investor. But the owner of Manila Bulletin, a powerful newspaper, was a sore loser.

Yap filed a suit with the high court questioning the award of the sale of the Grand Old Dame to a foreigner. He said the Manila Hotel should be owned by a Filipino because it was part of the country's "patrimony."

(In the first place, why didn't Yap question the participation of a foreigner or foreigners before the bidding started if he would later cite that the hotel belonged to the Filipinos by virtue of its storied past?)

The Supreme Court at the time quashed the bid victory of the Malaysian investor and gave the Manila Hotel to Yap on a silver platter. Obviously, the high tribunal succumbed to pressure from a wealthy and influential citizen.

Most probably, Davide overlooked that landmark but very controversial decision by the high court on the Manila Hotel. He wasn't in the high court yet when that ruling was made.

But his staff should have informed the Chief Justice about that decision since his speech was meant to disabuse the minds of would-be investors that the country's judiciary was unfair to foreigners. And the speech was made in Malaysia, one of whose nationals was adversely affected by the Manila Hotel ruling!

* * *

If the high tribunal then had foreseen what Yap would do to the Manila Hotel, it would have dismissed the Chinoy's appeal and allowed the Malaysian investor to buy it.

Have you been to the Grand Old Dame lately?

The hotel's motif is anything but Filipino. The interior looks like a hotel in Binondo's Chinatown.

Yap should have changed its name to "Manila Hong Kong Hotel." That name would have given justice to the hotel's new motif.

* * *

Top Muslim clerics have reportedly ordered all Muslims in the country to dump President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May elections.

The Bangsamoro Supreme Council of Ulama has issued a fatwa (religious edict) against GMA for alleged persecution of Muslims during her term.

Those Moro religious leaders tell their followers that GMA has been unfair to Muslims, when the opposite is true.

More likely, most Moros would follow their ulama because most of them are ignorant and don't have a mind of their own. In short, most of them are being led by the nose like carabaos on a leash by their religious and secular leaders.

It's not persecution of Muslims that is the real reason behind the fatwa against GMA. It's her being a woman.

In Muslim cultures around the world, women are considered second-class citizens and worse, chattel.

* * *

The May 1 or Labor Day rally at Edsa that would have been staged by opposition groups was seen as the biggest anti-GMA rally.

It would have been a political bashing of GMA by her rivals.

Why did it go pffft? Because the opposition groups have run out of money to pay the *hakot* (herded) crowd.

The money for the *hakot* crowd could be used in the opposition groups' provincial sorties.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Manila

2004 JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The 2004 Search for Outstanding Judges and Clerks of Court, also dubbed as the 2004 Judicial Excellence Awards, is now accepting nominations.

The general public is cordially invited to submit their nominees for the different awards with corresponding resume, and the reasons for the nomination on or before 21 May 2004. The categories are Outstanding Regional Trial Court Judges, Metropolitan Trial Court/Municipal Trial Court in Cities/Municipal Circuit Trial Court Judges, Shari'a Circuit Trial Court Judges, Clerks of Court (1st and 2nd Level Courts), Branch Clerks of (1st Level Courts) and Branch Clerks of Court (2nd Level Courts). All nominations should be addressed to the Secretariat, Committee on Judicial Excellence, Office of Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Padre Faura, Manila, with Tel. No. (02) 525-5723, Fax No. 526-6192 or thru e-mail address at judicial excellence_secretariat@yahoo.com.

In choosing the awardees, the committee on Judicial Excellence through the Board of Judges will take into consideration, among others, their efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, their initiatives, innovativeness and resourcefulness in meeting the exigencies of the service; public perception in terms of honesty, impartiality, diligence avoiding impropriety, and appearance of impropriety in all activities, and upholding judicial integrity and independence; their noteworthy contributions to the administration of justice; and leadership in the judiciary and the community

The Committee is chaired this year by Justice Panganiban with Justice Antonio T. Carpio as Vice Chair, and Court Administrator Presbitero J. Velasco Jr., Atty. Luzviminda D. Puno (Clerk of Court), Atty. Edna E. Dino (Chief Attorney), Atty. Ismael G. Khan, Jr. (Chief, Public Information Office), and Mr Joseph Bryan Hilary P. Devide (Chief Justice's Staff Head) as Members. The Secretariat is headed by Atty. Ma. Luis L. Laurea as Executive Director with Atty. Rommel M. Salvador as Secretary.

This is the first time that the Supreme Court will exclusively undertake the Search for Judicial Excellence. Last year, the Committee coordinated with the Foundation for Judicial Excellence, a private organization, which had been carrying out the annual awards program since 1991. Moreover, beginning this year, the Search will focus on excellence in the Judiciary and will no longer include awards for Outstanding Prosecutors and Public Attorneys since the latter are properly within the Executive Department.

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SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs-Pistons vs Bucks, Game 4, Eastern Semifinals; 7 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports; Kings vs Mavs, Game 4, Western First Round; 6:30 p.m.; IBC 13—Detroit hopes to rev up its engine against Milwaukee while Sacramento and Dallas engage in another shootfest.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2004 F1 Grand Prix-San Marino Grand Prix Race Day; 10 p.m.; Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Overall standings After Stage 12

1. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) 50:36.41 hrs.
2. A. Primero (Dole) 3:28 mins. behind
3. E. Domingo (Postmen) 4:10 mins. behind
4. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer) 5:27 mins. behind
5. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 10:59 mins. behind
6. T. Martinez (Beer na Beer) 11:20 mins. behind
7. B. Ravina (VAT Riders) 13:16 mins. behind
8. E. Feliciano (Patrol 117) 13:32 mins. behind
9. J. Millanes (Postmen) 14:20 mins. behind
10. Q. Quinones (Purefoods) 14:42 mins. behind

2004 TOUR PILIPINAS presented by AIR21

AIR21 · STUDIO 23 · DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta · FedEx · Mail and More · Tanduay · Beer na Beer · PLDT · SAMSUNG · PUREFOODS · Dole · Marsman Drysdale Medical Products, Inc. · Metro Drug, Inc. · Patrol 117 DILG · VAT Riders · DOIC

Spurs, Nets, Pacers sweep playoff rivals /A27

STAGE 11 victor Albert Primero hits the finish line in Laoag City. ROMY HOMILLADA

Tanguilig snatches Tour overall lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LAOAG CITY—With a little help from his "unofficial" teammates, PLDT captain Rhyan Tanguilig launched a daring high-noon raid yesterday and successfully grabbed the yellow jersey from hapless Postmen skipper Enrique Domingo after the dramatic 12th stage of the Air21 Tour Pilipinas that wound up here.

Tanguilig joined forces with 1996 champion Victor Espiritu (Beer na Beer), Lloyd Reynante (Postmen), Ronald Gorantes (Metro Drug) and 12th stage winner Albert Primero (Dole)—his teammates in the RP Trade Team—to snare the overall leadership with plenty to spare.

But the alleged conspiracy—executed in style in the lush foothills of Sta. Praxedes town, near the Ilocos Norte-Cagayan border—did not escape the attention of representatives of the Games and Amusements Board who immediately began an inquiry to find out if the riders had indeed committed a Tour rule infraction.

Tour 1998 champion Warren Davadilla himself called for an investigation and vowed to testify against the five riders. The Trade Team, sponsored by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), which bolted the Tour this year, is a crack squad that competes in lucrative bikathons abroad.

The 25-year-old Tanguilig, who will wear the yellow jersey for the first time since joining the Tour in 1998, now holds a 3-minute, 28-second lead over Primero, also the winner of the fifth stage, in the overall standings.

Domingo, who finished more than nine minutes behind Primero, dropped to third place, 4:10 off the pace.

Davadilla joined the nine-man lead pack that included the five Trade Team members in Burgos, three towns away from the finish line. There, the diminutive Davadilla claimed that the Pagcor riders pinned him every time he tried to attack.

But the biggest victim happened to be Domingo, who failed to count on his teammate, Reynante, when Tanguilig started to make his move in the seaside town of Claveria, Cagayan.

By the time they reached a steep portion between Claveria and Sta. Praxedes halfway through the route, Domingo had dropped back to be with a nine-man second group that included Reynante, just less than two minutes behind.

"*Tinanong ko siya* (Domingo): *Kap, kaya mo pa? Pero sabi niya okay lang siya* (I asked him: Captain, you need help? He said he's okay)," said Reynante who finished second in the stage of the bikathon sponsored by Pharex, Isuzu, Summit Water, Lactovitale, Gatorade, Elixir Bikeshop and Red Bull.

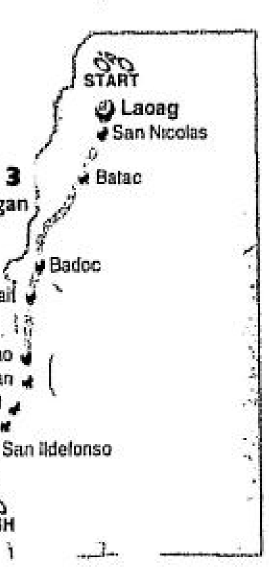
This prompted the 25-year-old son of two-time Tour champion Maui Reynante to peel off from the pack and join the lead group, leaving Domingo to pace the bunch.

But the 35-year-old Domingo, often riding off the saddle and on low gear, denied that Reynante had offered help.

The remaining riders take a break today here and will pedal back into action in tomorrow's team time trials from this city to Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

2004 TOUR PILIPINAS

STAGE 13
Laoag to Vigan
82.7 KM



STAGE 12 RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL

1. A. Primero (Dole) 6 hrs 07 mins 45 secs

2. L. Reynante, L. (Postmen) 26 secs. behind; 3. L. Atilano (Mail and More) same time

4. D. Ganigan (Vat Riders) 41 secs. behind; 5. J. Calderon (Beer na Beer) 6. V. Espiritu (Beer na Beer) 7. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) same time

8. R. Gorantes (Metro Drug) 47 secs behind; 9. R. Tanguilig (PLDT) same time

10. E. Quinones (Purefoods) 7:34 mins behind 11. R. Dolosa (Metro Drug) 12. B. Ravina (Vat Riders) 13. D. Marana (Marsman Drysdale) 14. J. Millanes (Postmen) 15. T. Martinez (Beer Na Beer) same time

19. O. Villanueva (Dole) 9:25 mins behind; 20. W. Calosa (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 21. A. Quirimit (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 22. E. Domingo (Postmen) same time

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL

11. D. Ganigan (Vat Riders) 50 hrs 52 mins 2 secs behind

12. R. Dolosa (Metro Drug) 15:36 mins behind

13. L. Reynante (Postmen) 19:44

14. S. Barnachea (Mail and More) 19:53

15. R. Navarro (Tanduay Rhum Riders) 20:38

16. L. Atilano (Mail and More) 21:00

17. M. Ramos (Samsung) 21:30

18. V. Baluyot (Samsung) 22:34

19. W. Davadilla (Purefoods) 24:31

20. V. Espiritu (Beer Na Beer) 26:32

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Postmen 151 hrs 43 mins 14.342 secs

2. Beer Na Beer 13:32.752 mins behind

3. Dole 25:11.254 mins

4. Purefoods 30:26.241

5. Metro Drug 42:35.741

6. Mail and More 45:27.550

7. Vat Riders 58:24.252

8. Samsung 59:20.146

9. Tanduay Rhum Riders 1 hr 06 mins 58.380 secs behind

10. PLDT 1:19:30.229

11. Marsman Drysdale 1:27:12.247

12. Patrol 117 1:44:42.781

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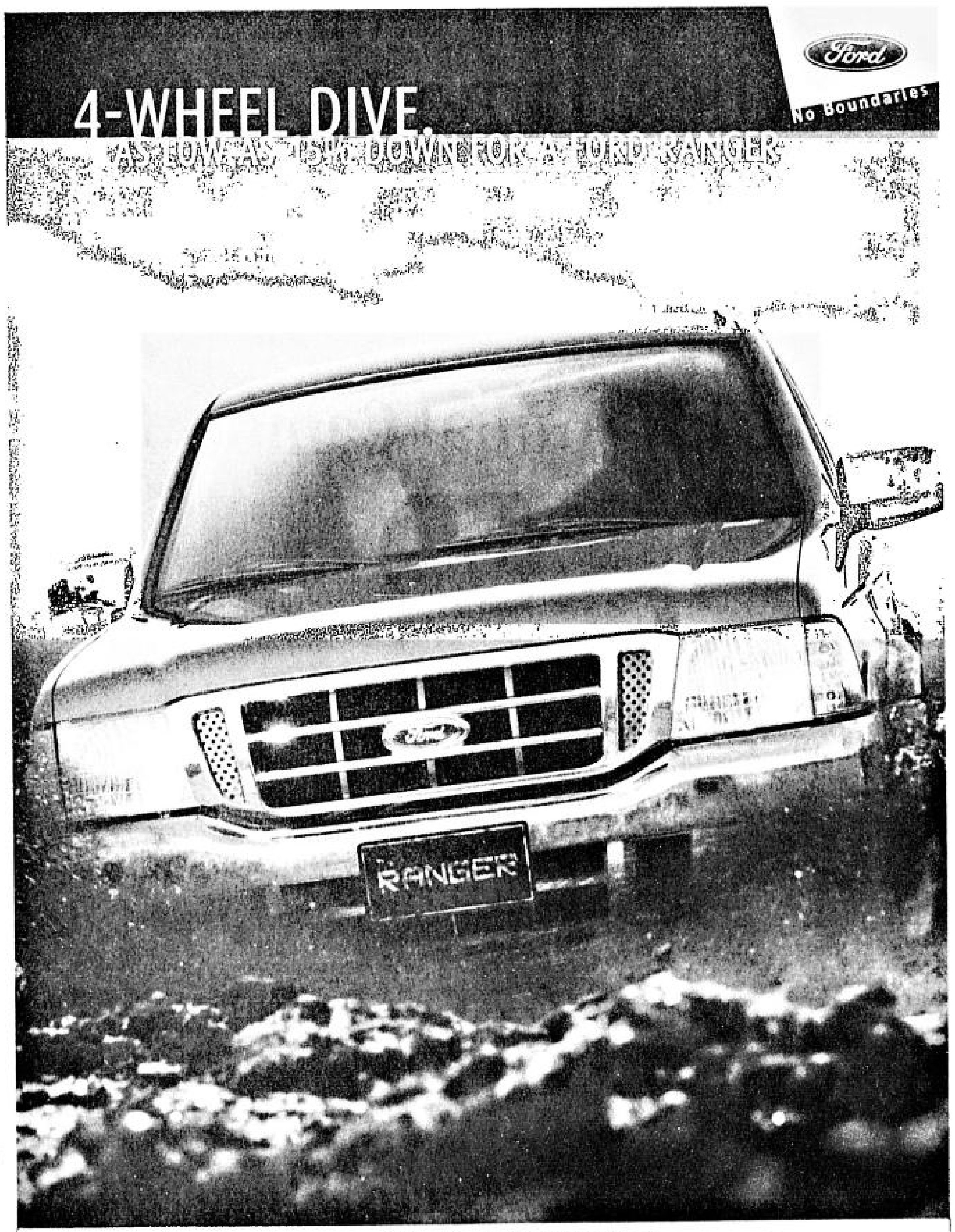

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GOPEZ: By acclamation

Gopez elected NGAP prexy

By Jong Arcano

BUSINESSMAN Benigno M. Gopez was elected yesterday president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) after making it to the board of golf's governing body in elections held at the Navy Golf Club.

As expected, all nominees for directors made it to the new board. Although 13 seats were available, only 12 were filled up.

Gopez, who has spent almost two decades holding various positions in the NGAP and its precursor, Republic of the Philippines Golf Association, made it to the presidency by acclamation.

Two-term president Rod Feliciano nominated Gopez, secretary general of the outgoing board, to be his successor.

Feliciano opted to become honorary chair, contrary to expectations that he would be seeking another term.

"I believe in his capacity as a leader," Feliciano said of Gopez. "I've worked with him for years and I know I am reposing the NGAP's highest position in the hands of an able, upright and respected person in Mr. Gopez."

The other officers were vice president retired Commodore Danny Pizarro, secretary general Luisito "Louie" Fernandez, treasurer Alice L. Andrada and auditor Jun Galindez.

Defense Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita and Anthony Sasin kept their seats as directors. The board's new members are Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza, lawyer Federico Agcaoili and generals Roberto Sabularse and Roberto Santiago.

The 13th slot was actually offered to Tommy Manotoc days before the elections but the sportsman politely declined it.

Manotoc had originally planned to run in the elections on the condition that exclusive clubs not on the roster of NGAP members were accepted into the federation under an absolute amnesty scheme.

Gopez said he would pursue the "vigorous programs" initiated by Feliciano since 2000.

"Our development programs under Mr. Feliciano has been as strong as ever and I intend to pursue them and add more teeth to ensure that all loopholes are plugged," said Gopez.

"I will enjoin all clubs to work hand in hand with us for a common goal, that is for the strengthening of the sport not only locally but internationally as well."

Gopez was also a former president of the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association and a one-time vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Fil-foreigners 'hampering' PBA recovery

By Musong Castillo, *Contributor*

FILIPINO-FOREIGNERS—or those who masquerade as such—are hampering the recovery of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

This is the gist of a survey quietly conducted recently by Asia's first professional cage league, the INQUIRER has learned.

Commissioner Noli Eala, in only his second year at the helm, has said he would like to address two big issues, including the presence of "Fil-fors," to ensure his tenure's success.

"Before I leave or whatever, I'd like to successfully address this matter, because fans have been questioning the presence of the Fil-foreigners," said Eala in an interview. "This has become a hindrance to the total reconstruction of the credibility of the PBA as a league.

"There's a problem with the acceptability of these foreign players. Not foreign players, *per se*, but those who have fake papers and made it all the way to the PBA."

Eala said addressing the issue is a matter of political will.

"We have a pretty good grasp of how it affects the league," he said.

GAMES TOMORROW *(PhilSports Arena)*
4:45 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs. FedEx
7:10 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Alaska

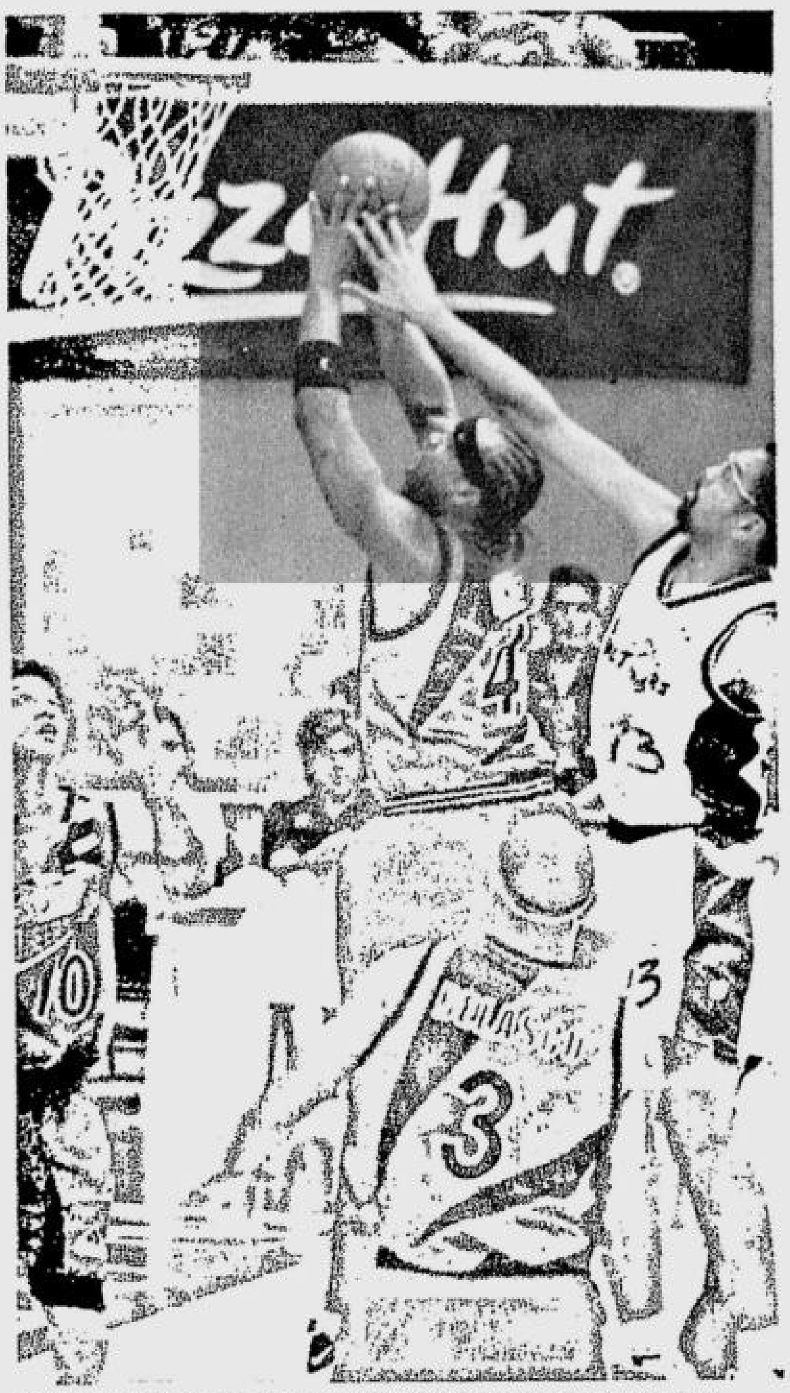
Among the Fil-fors seeing action in the league are Asi Taulava, Dorian Peña, Eric Menk, Andy Seigle, Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp, Jon Ordonio and Rudy Hatfield. All eight received permits from the Immigration bureau to play.

Although Eala insisted that none of the league's 'Fil-fors' are suspects at this point, a further investigation "could weed some of them out."

Eala said the league commissioned the firm AC Nielsen to conduct the surveys in September last year and then in January.

He refused to divulge the exact figures to the INQUIRER, but he said the PBA Board, headed by Buddy Encarnado, was made aware of the details as well as the measures that he would like to take in the future.

"There is a continuing dialogue (between the Office of the Commissioner and the Board of Governors) and we agreed that the league will practice common political will in dealing with this matter," Eala said.



STA. LUCIA'S Marlou Aquino fouls SMB's Dorian Peña Sunday during their match at the Araneta Coliseum. ROGER MARGALLO

Coaches name 19 to RP five pool

FOUR holdovers of last year's team backstop the 19-man training pool for the Cebuana Lhuillier-Philippine men's basketball squad named yesterday by national coaches Dong Vergeire and Boyzie Zamar.

Returning to the RP team fold are forwards Ricky Calimag and Richie Melencio as well as pointguards Celino Cruz and Dennis Madrid.

Joining the four are 15 cagers who went through the nationwide Cebuana Lhuillier Tryouts ng Bayan which culminated Friday night at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

They are 6-9 Samigue Eman, 6-8 Niño Canaleta, 6-6 Jayson Tiongson, 6-5 Jay R Gerilla, 6-2 Jerry Cavan, 6-3 1/2 Rainward Ramos, 6-4 Mark Abadia, 6-4 Ronrez Villamin, 6-2 Joel Co, 6-6 Ephraim Torio, 6-4 Saumanqui and 6-3 Filipino-Nigerian Sammy Ayodele.

Aside from 19, Vergeire and Zamar named six other players to the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier developmental pool from which they would select national team alternates.

They are Patrick Tiongco, Rolly Menor, Charles Tan, Arnold Booker, Rey Mendez and Wynsjohn Te.

The training pool will begin work right away with a three-day team-building workshop next week at the La Corona de Pagsanjan in Laguna under veteran facilitator Lito Cinco.

The team's first acid test will be the Jones Cup in Taiwan in July.

Torre hits out at Campo

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre yesterday blamed world chess federation (Fide) honorary president Florencio Campomanes for the deep division prevailing in local chess.

Torre said Campomanes won't stop until he takes full control of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP).

It marked the first time that Asia's first chess grandmaster came out in public to lash out at the former three-term Fide president.

"Campomanes' fingerprints are on it the moment the controversy started last year," said the 52-year-old Torre, a former NCFP president.

Torre dropped the bombshell a day after GM Joey Antonio had criticized Torre's call for early NCFP election, saying it was a ploy to divert issues raised against Torre and NCFP secretary-general Sammy Estimo.

TORRE

Torre said the issues raised by Antonio had been fully explained during the NCFP board meeting last February.

According to Torre, Campomanes is behind the smear campaign to discredit the present NCFP leadership.

"He (Campomanes) will do it by any means, even pitting players against players, friends against friends, *kumpare* against *kumpare* and *compañero* against *compañero*," said Torre.

₱1-M Julio Cup fires off at Villamor

STILL fresh off his recent million-peso victory, Tony Lascuña guns for a win that will reaffirm his No. 1 local ranking in the PGAP-Julio Cup golf championship starting today at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Lascuña, who received his biggest paycheck ever for winning The Country Club Invitational, will shoot for the P120,000 top prize out of the P1 million pot put up by Korean expatriate Lee Sung Ho, known to his friends as Julio.

The Southwoods and KZG pro who also tied for seventh in the Philippine Open at Riviera sets out to challenge Villamor's army of resident pros.

Coinciding with today's play is the pro-am side-event where Lee and the other tournament benefactors as well as special invitees pair up with local pros and shoot for merchandise prizes.

The PGAP-Julio Cup is also backed by the Villamor Golf Council headed by Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, Park Soon Oh, Tommy Lee and Ricky Bedayo.

Sarge Negrido, president of the organizing Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines, said part of the tournament proceeds will be donated to the Bantay Bata Foundation.

Samsung Jungolf goes to Malarayat

ALREADY assured of trips to the Junior World championships in the United States, several qualifiers will seek to reaffirm their berths when the fourth leg of the Samsung Philippine Jungolf Tour fires off today at the Makulot and Lobo courses of the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club and the Riviera executive course.

Dottie Ardina and the three Superal siblings—Wolen, Crystal Faith and Princess—head a cast of 81 entries vying for honors in five age-group categories all solidly favored to stretch their winning streaks in the series backed chiefly by Samsung, International Container Terminal Services Inc. and Philippine Airlines as the official carrier.

While Ardina has won the last three legs of the girls' Class D division via double-digit margins, Wolen (boys' Class C) and sisters Crystal Faith (girls' Class B) and Princess (girls' Class E) were just as dominating.

Alcoseba, Alcantara advance in Head Penn junior tennis

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Mark Alcoseba and Francis Alcantara breezed past separate opponents yesterday to storm into the quarterfinals of the Head Penn Junior Tennis Tournament at the Nazareth Tennis Courts here.

Alcoseba routed Cayetano Olavidez, 6-0, 6-0, in the premiere boys' 18-and-under class while Alcantara dumped Robert Malalis, 6-0, 6-0, in the boys' 14-under.

In the girls' 12-under, Honey Gilles whipped Issi Santos, 6-1, 6-1; Eloisa Collo defeated Janelle Guanzon, 6-1, 7-5; and Karla Mae Cansino beat Robie Lou Santos, 6-3, 6-3.

Efren Macasinas trounced Dave Regencia, 6-1, 6-1, in the lone boys' 16-under encounter.

Action in the boys' 12-under saw Robert Ortellano trip Kent Garay, 6-1, 6-0; Marlon Halili nip Ryan Casicas, 6-24-6, 10-6; Henry Notarte clobber Robert Halili, 6-0, 6-1; Andre Banate hurdle Gabriel Melendrez, 6-1, 6-2; Bryan Sarrenas subdue Juan Paolo Cansino, 7-6, 6-0; Leandro Fernandez tame Jomar Agilo, 6-4, 6-4; and Princeton Gerapusto thwart Paolo Fermin, 7-5, 6-2.

SPORTSWATCH

Brother-sister act gains in Milo netfest

OLONGAPO CITY—Mathew Timoney routed Jurence Mendoza, 6-1, 6-0, and his sister Kathryn Timoney ousted Nico Bongco, 6-3, 6-0, to lead the campaign of the visiting Aramco team at the start of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Olongapo Tennis Club here. The Timoneys towed Calvin Canlas, who downed Ricky Cerezo, 6-0, 6-1, and AJ Rivero, who blasted Majed Yousif, 6-1, 6-0, in the unisex 10-under division. In the girls' 12-under bracket, Eman Yousif, another Saudi Arabia-based netter, walloped Ivy Jarin, 6-2, 6-3. In other matches of the CTW-organized netfest celebrating Milo's 40 years in the local market and with support from Wilson balls, adidas, Sports Kids, Ibrahim Nawab routed Justine Mendoza, 6-1, 6-0, in the boys' 14-under class and Faisal Mansour outplayed Gerry Dorado, 6-2, 6-2, in the boys' 18-under category.

Petron taekwondo tilt seeks new stars

TAEKWONDO hopefuls take the spotlight with the staging of the 2004 Petron New Face of the Year championships on May 2 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado expects about 1,000 newcomers from various chapters and branches in Metro Manila and the provinces, including those from the military, to participate in four categories—senior men and women, junior men and women and grade school boys and girls. The event, which is also supported by Milo and the Philippine Sports Commission, gives aspiring jins the chance to display their styles and techniques. According to organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong, the tourney is part of the PTA's commitment to develop the sport and at the same time support the government's grassroots program.

Hapee five guns for No. 4 vs Lee Pipes

DEFENDING champion Hapee Toothpaste collides with Lee Pipes-Ateneo, while Sunkist-UST takes on Montañna in the 2004 PBL Unity Cup today at the Pasig Sports Center. The Teeth Sparklers (3-2) will be facing Lee Pipes (0-5) whose top guns are former Hapee players LA Tenorio, Paolo Bugia, Magnum Membrere, and Larry Fonacier in their 2 p.m. matchup. The Jewels, with new coach Ronnie Dojilla at the helm, came off a resounding 93-68 triumph over Welcoat Paints in their last outing, and are favored against the Tigers at 4 p.m. Led by Jon Dan Salvador, Al Magpayo, and ace shooter Ismael Junio, the Jewels have lost coach Bong Go but gained its fighting form after their morale-boosting 93-68 win over Welcoat, which is currently sharing the leadwith Viva Mineral Water at 5-1. The Tigers hold a 3-3 card. ***Trina Ibarle***

Bosch Intelco duo 1-2 in Tarlac karting

BOSCH Intelco Racing Team's dynamic duo of Oliver Aquino and John Paul Dizon pulled off another 1-2 finish in the centerpiece KT 100 race last Sunday in the Sogo Grand Tarlac. The event is actually Round 1 of Kart City Racing Club's (Tarlac) 2004 kart series. Aquino and Dizon, who started second and fourth on the 18-kart grid, duplicated their windup in the FSL Light races, second leg of the 2004 Shell Super Kart Series held recently in the Carmona circuit. The Bosch-Intelco Racing Team is sponsored by Bosch, Intelco, Accel Sportswear, Arrow Karts, Drew Price Engineering and PR Autosport. Defending champion Jopet Sy wound up third, just behind Dizon who spun out in the very first lap and had to overtake almost half of the field to finish on the podium. Aquino showed up Sy most of the way until last year's winner seized control with four laps to go. But Aquino wouldn't be denied and he recaptured the lead in the penultimate lap when Sy went wide on a turn.

WILL top seed Ian Piencenaves (left) avenge his loss in the qualifying round against No. 2 Arolas Amahit, or will Amahit clinch the men's singles title tonight? The match, as well as the finals of the ladies' and men's doubles of the 2004 Philippine Badminton Tournaments All-Star Invitational, will be shown from 6-9 p.m. on Solar Sports Channel.

Amoncio, Remandaban prevail

MIKAEL Amoncio ripped Angelo Gabriel, 6-0, 6-1, while Isabelo Remandaban routed Edrick Ente, 6-0, 6-1, to reach the second round of the boys' 21-under division at the start of the Toby's-Philta Junior Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday. Amoncio will face top seed Jandrick de Castro while Remandaban will meet sixth seed Ian de Guzman in the next round. The top eight seeds drew first-round byes and will see action tomorrow. In the boys' 18-under, Arthur Joseph Arrogancia clobbered Jasper Galingho, 6-1, 6-1, to also reach the next round and lead the winners in the division. The week-long tennis tennis tournament is organized by Futures Tennis Scholarship Foundation and supported by Nassau, Wilson, Prince and Eastpack backpacks.

Upsets rock JVC badminton tourney

CHRISTOPHER Pilones, Raymond Alonzo and Jed Perez shocked their respective fancied rivals and entered the quarterfinal round of the boys' singles of the JVC Open Badminton 14-under Championships at SM Pampanga Sunday. Pilones, an unranked bet playing out of Santiago City Badminton Club, rallied from a set down to dominate eighth seed Ramon Guerrero of La Salle-Greenhills in the next two frames as he fashioned out a 7-15, 15-4, 15-7 victory in the upper half of the draw. The win set Pilones up against the most fancied player in the field, top seed Gerard Certeza, who whipped Raymond Banez, 15-3, 15-1, to lead the quarterfinalists in the event sponsored by electronics giant JVC. Alonzo, a qualifier from La Salle-Greenhills, upset sixth seed John Patriwirawan, 15-12, 15-9, while Perez subdued Angelito Flores, 15-13, 15-8.

Sta. Cruz de Mayo derby listing today

OFFICIAL entries in the much-awaited Sta. Cruz de Mayo 5-Cock Derby must be submitted today from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Roligion Mega Cockpit. Dangling a guaranteed prize of P1 million for an entry fee of P8,800, the three-day cockfest is slated on Wednesday, Saturday and Monday. More than 150 cockers are seeing action, according to derby hosts Soseng Gotengco and Engr. Francis Sales of Laguna. A participant may field an entry during the elimination rounds (2-cock) either on April 28 or May 1. Two-pointers in the elimination rounds qualify to the finals on May 3 and share in the P50,000 prize per day. Last week, Manila cocker Alan Tan ruled the "Bakbakan National 8-Cock Derby" after his entry, JU Hatawan sa Tagulan, posted a perfect score of eight points. Participants may call 833-2275 and 833-1638 for details.

Spurs, Nets, Pacers post playoff sweeps

Malone shines in Lakers victory

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—The San Antonio Spurs took another step in their defense of their NBA title, completing a sweep of the Memphis Grizzlies with a 110-97 victory Sunday to reach the second round of the playoffs.

The Spurs were joined in the second round by last year's Eastern Conference champions, New Jersey Nets, who finished off the New York Knicks, 90-74, in four games, and the Indiana Pacers, who completed a dominant sweep of Boston, 90-75.

With Tony Parker and Robert Horry connecting from the outside and Tim Duncan dominating, the Spurs made quick work of playoff neophytes Memphis.

Parker and Horry each went 4-of-5 from beyond the arc and Duncan made 10-of-17 shots as the Spurs beat the Grizzlies.

Parker collected 29 points and 13 assists, Duncan scored 26 points and Horry added 14 off the bench for the Spurs.

Pau Gasol scored 22 points and James Posey added 20 and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who had never so much as had a winning month in their 10-year history until January but finished with 50 wins under Coach of the Year Hubie Brown.

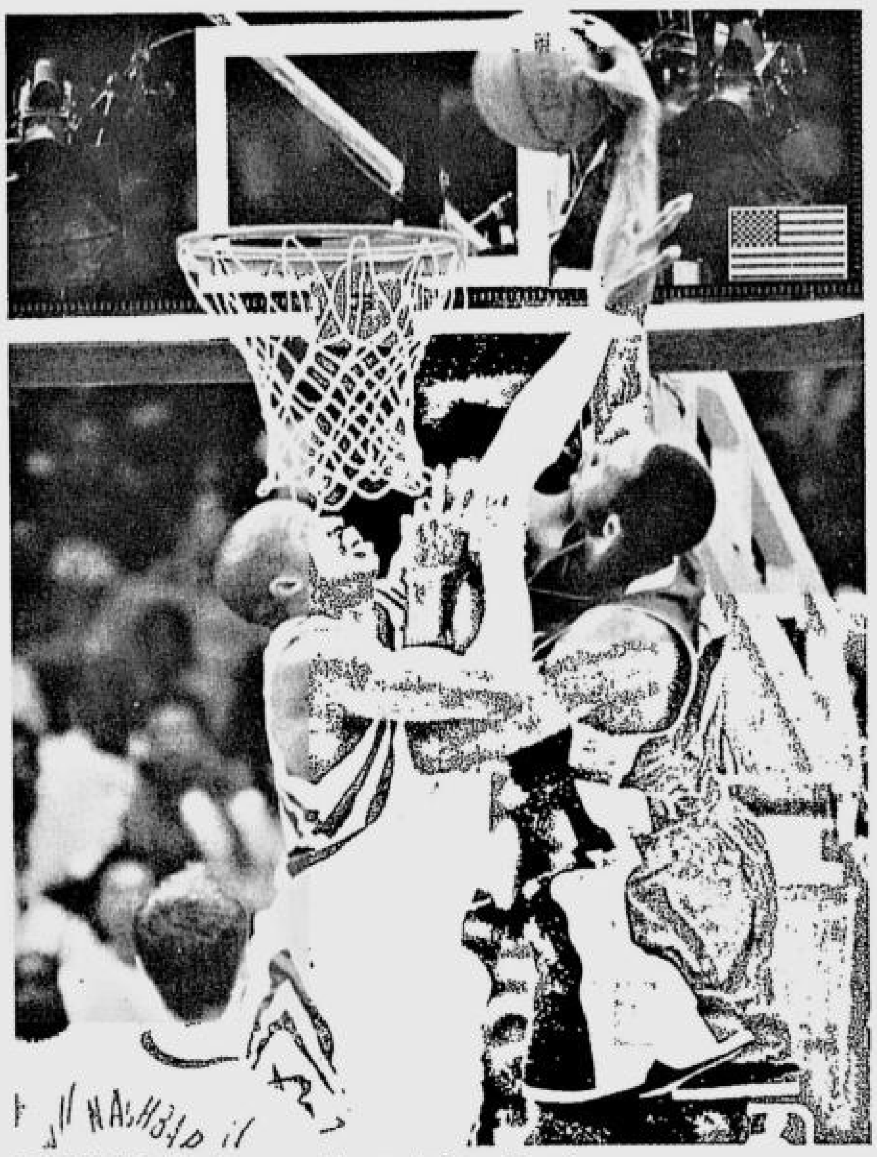
The Spurs now await the Los Angeles Lakers or Houston Rockets in the Western Conference semifinals.

The Lakers took a commanding 3-1 lead in that series with a 92-88 overtime victory in Houston.

Kobe Bryant's three-point play with 40.3 seconds left in overtime snapped a tie and Karl Malone added a steal, key rebound and freethrow with 6.4 seconds remaining to lift the Lakers.

Malone, 40, had 20 points by halftime, finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds and drew the sixth foul from Rockets All-Star center Yao Ming while converting a three-point play in overtime.

"I came here for one reason and that's to win in the playoffs," said Malone, who left Utah after 18 years and signed with the Lakers in the hopes of getting an elusive championship ring. *AFP*


BRYANT (right) slams over Houston's Steve Francis. AFP

Teammate gives way to Thorpe

BRISBANE—Australian swimmer Craig Stevens announced his withdrawal Monday from the 400-m freestyle at the Athens Olympics, giving defending Olympic champion Ian Thorpe the chance to defend his title.

Thorpe failed to qualify for the 400 at the Australian Olympic trials last month after being disqualified for a false start in the qualifying heats. The multiple world-record holder qualified for the 100 and 200 freestyle, but his best chance for a gold medal is the 400.

Stevens qualified for the 400, placing second to Grant Hackett at the trials.

"The decision I've made is to stand aside in the 400 in the hope that I'll get to see Ian swim that race in the final on Day 1 at the Olympic Games," Stevens said Monday.

Australia Swimming Inc. media spokesperson Ian Hanson said no comment would be forthcoming from either the national swimming body or from Thorpe until Tuesday. *AP*

Shell awakening

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SLOWLY but surely, Tony dela Cruz is coming of age. The 6-foot-6 Dela Cruz proved this again last weekend when he powered Shell to a smashing 99-86 victory over Red Bull Barako. His numbers in that game told it all: 28 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals.

It can't get any better than that.

Before Saturday, there had been loose talk the handsome Fil-Am was on the trading block. Together with his teammates Chris Calaguio and Billy Mamaril, Dela Cruz was supposed to be shipped soon to Barangay Ginebra in exchange for Rommel Adducul and Mark Caguioa.

But as fast as the rumors came, they died down just as quick.

"No way Tony would be traded," said Leo Austria, the new head coach of Shell. "He is a vital cog in our major recovery program for Shell."

True enough, just days after Austria had said that, Dela Cruz exploded for Shell, becoming a virtual one-man SWAT Team in a frenzied fourth-quarter performance that saw him score 12 of Shell's last 14 points of the game on Saturday.

Asked by the imaginative Janelle So of ABC Sports how he was able to turn in those big numbers, Dela Cruz said: "I did a lot of concentration last night thinking about this game against Red Bull."

In the PBA, a player's employment security is as fragile as a bird's nest. Any day without warning, a player's contract with his team could vanish like a soap bubble.

Players of lesser stuff could suffer sleepless nights, if not from trauma, upon reading reports of an impending trade. Certainly, the uncertainty of things, not only to basketball players but also absolutely to all of us, is a nightmare that can derail all your waking hours. To every basketball player, though, especially in the now highly competitive nature of the PBA, a trade is like a chameleon: You won't know the true color of the ink with which you signed your contract until you have started wearing your new jersey.

But, obviously, Tony dela Cruz is of a different breed, if not a pedigreed cager. It is apparent he doesn't just allow external forces—like talks of trade—to get in the way of his system.

"I just did what I was supposed to do tonight," he said of his weekend show.

Asked for a greeting by way of a parting shot to his fans by Janelle So, Dela Cruz said: "Hi to the fans of Shell but most especially to my wife and son."

A family man, huh?

Yes, indeed, Shell has not only captured a prized catch in coach Leo Austria. It also earlier snared a colossus of a player in Tony dela Cruz. And include a very promising import in Jameel Watkins, the opposition may yet see the resurgence of Shell in the days to come.

The signs are there.

Since the major team revamp initiated by Shell management through manager Bobby Kanapi and executive Vicky Araneta—anchored on the sacking of its American coach, John Moran—the Turbo Chargers have since been on a roll. It's been inching its way slowly back into the groove of things, thanks mainly to a crew forced to heed weird orders from an undecipherable foreigner but who, it turned out, are proving to be oozing with talent and are just waiting for the right one to rein them in the politically correct way.

I do not wish to jump into conclusions but at the rate they are going, the Shell Turbo Chargers may, in no time, simply become the hottest talk, if not the hottest team, in PBAlandia. And that's because, seemingly—and all too suddenly—everything's falling into place. Rich Alvarez being Shell's top draft pick this year, Leo Austria replacing the ineffective John Moran, Jameel Watkins taking over the toothpick-thin Marek Ondera and now, Tony dela Cruz exploding like a long-dormant volcano in the caliber of Mt. Pinatubo. The Shell awakening will redound to an avalanche of *pogi* points for the league.

Who said the PBA has had its glory days?

Amid Shell's new-found success, I can't blame Commissioner Eala if he himself has finally sipped his first swig of red wine. Even non-drinkers like him ought to drink when the occasion calls for it.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Rio 2. Bukambibig 3. Extreme Connection

Race 2—1. Shuttle's Rianne 2. Little Diamond 3. Taskmania 4. Portal Dancer

Race 3—1. Heavy Metal 2. Mina sa Isla 3. Alert One 4. River Bandit 5. Gold and Star

Race 4—1. Free Again 2. Real Charm 3. Zarafun Mo

Race 5—1. Golden Africa 2. Hector's Dream 3. Tiny Bubbles 4. Above the Rim 5. Ravishing Raffy

Race 6—1. Ma Cherie 2. Worth Ur While 3. Showtime Lady 4. Il Amorosa 5. Golden Moment

Race 7—1. Maging Matalino 2. Extreme Illusion 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Si Isidro Ko 5. Pride of Mandaue

Race 8—1. Incrediview 2. Ichiro 3. Well Noted 4. Gigi's Gold 5. Sovereign Queen/Hudredfold 6. Kagilagilalas

See'eMall!

AYALA CINEMAS

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 HELLBOY	1 MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	1 PAYCHECK	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 PAYCHECK 1 20 3 50 6 20 8 50 11 20	1 LOVE ACTUALLY
2 PETER PAN	2 HELLBOY	2 TAKING LIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 HELLBOY 12 50 3 25 6 00 8 35 11 10	2 TAKING LIVES
3 PAYCHECK	3 PAYCHECK	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST 1 50 4 15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12 50 3 15 5 40 8 05 10 30	3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 SPARTAN	4 TWISTED	4 IMAGINING ARGENTINA	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BIG FISH 12 50 3 30 6 10 8 50 11 30	4 GRUDGE 2
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST		5 SPARTAN	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TAKING LIVES 2 00 4 20 6 40 9 00 11 20	5 50 FIRST DATES
		6 HELLBOY		
		7 BIG FISH		

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	TAKING LIVES 12:15, 2 35, 4 55, 7 15, 9 35
2	HELLBOY 11:55, 2 20 4 45 7 10 9:35

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK April 21 to 30, 2004	AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER (A Wedding & Debut Event Year 2) April 30 to May 2, 2004	NICKELODEON'S SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS: BIKINI BOTTOM BASH April 30 (11am 4pm 7pm) May 1 & 2 (11am 3pm 6pm)

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GLORIETTA	GREENBELT
HARD ROCK CAFÉ, GLORIETTA 3 featuring JIMMY BONDOC (Album Launch)	MERK'S: Romy Posadas TAVERN ON THE SQUARE: Escape (9:30pm)

Onstage REP'S GLOBE THEATER presents CAUGHT IN THE NET April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 & 30

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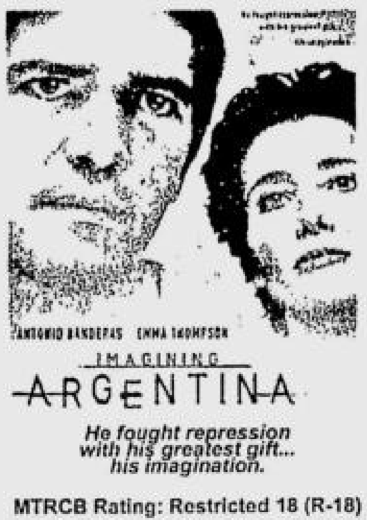
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IMAGINING ARGENTINA
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antonio banderas oscar® winner emma thompson

imagining argentina

written & directed by oscar® winner christopher hampton

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"An exemplary and moving entertainment from start to finish. BIG FISH really is a delight." PREMIERE

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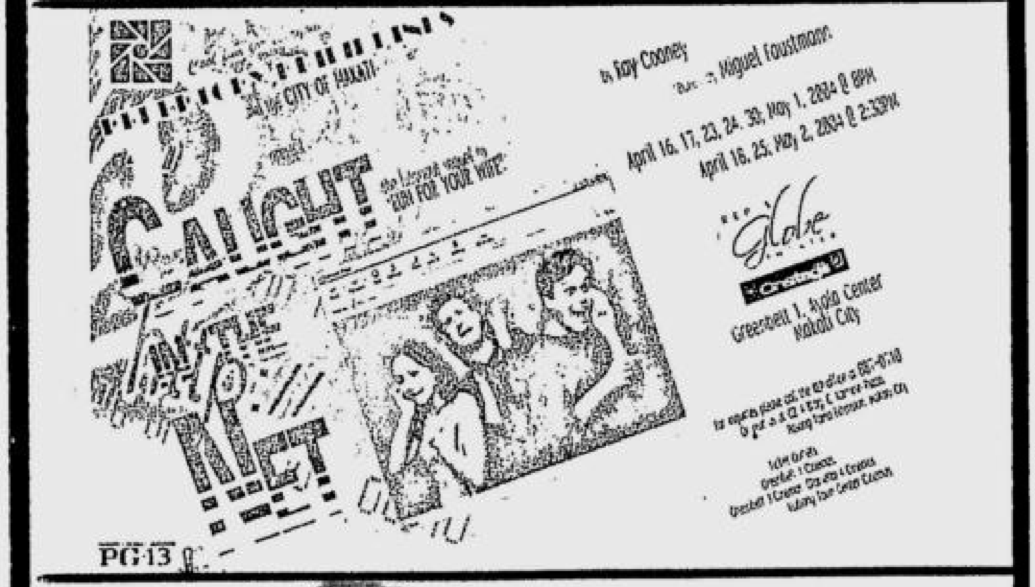
COLUMBIA PICTURES AYALA CINEMAS LoveMall!

"They say that when you meet the love of your life, time stops, and that's true."

EWAN McGREGOR
DANNY DE VITO JESSICA LANGE

BIG FISH AN ADVENTURE AS BIG AS LIFE ITSELF

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance13 (PG-13)


THE CITY OF MAKATI
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By Ray Cooney
Dir. Miguel Faustmann
April 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, May 1, 2004 @ 8PM
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PG-13

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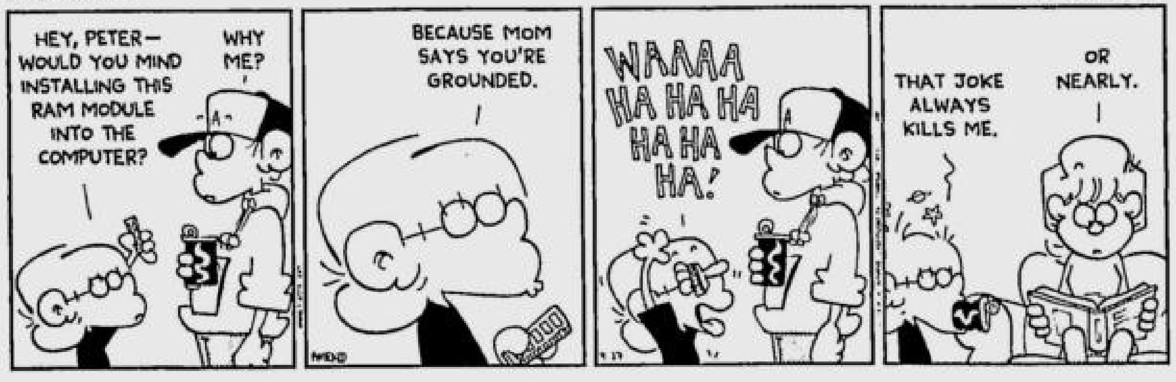
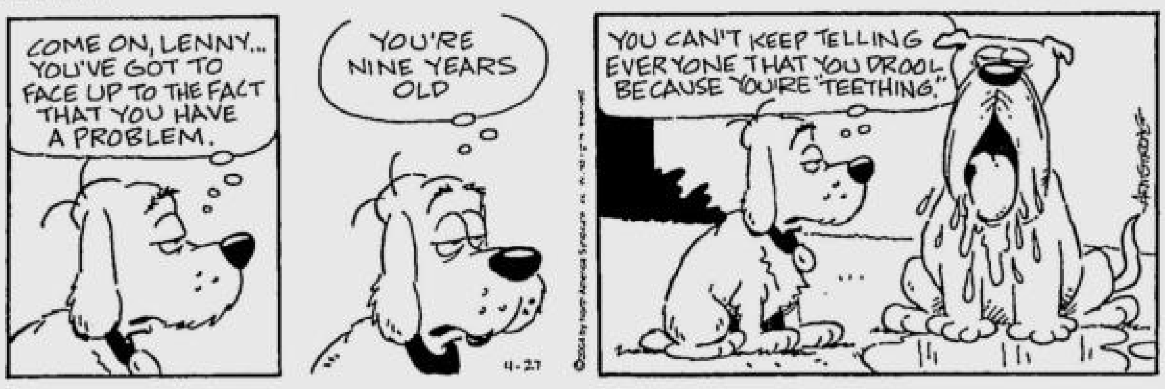
AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

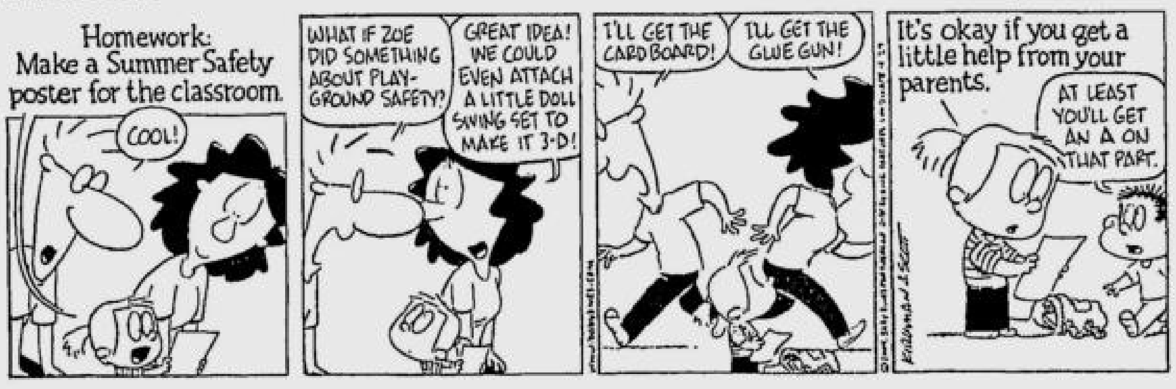
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


HEY, PETER— WOULD YOU MIND INSTALLING THIS RAM MODULE INTO THE COMPUTER?
WHY ME?
BECAUSE MOM SAYS YOU'RE GROUNDED.
WAAAA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT JOKE ALWAYS KILLS ME.
OR NEARLY.

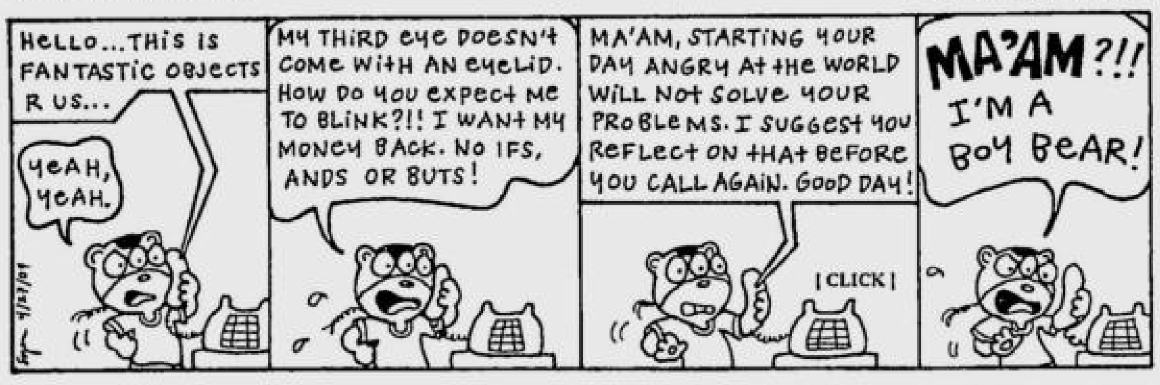
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


COME ON, LENNY... YOU'VE GOT TO FACE UP TO THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.
YOU'RE NINE YEARS OLD
YOU CAN'T KEEP TELLING EVERYONE THAT YOU DROOL BECAUSE YOU'RE "TEETHING."
4-27

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


Homework: Make a Summer Safety poster for the classroom.
COOL!
WHAT IF ZOE DID SOMETHING ABOUT PLAY-GROUND SAFETY?
GREAT IDEA! WE COULD EVEN ATTACH A LITTLE DOLL SWING SET TO MAKE IT 3-D!
I'LL GET THE CARDBOARD!
I'LL GET THE GLUE GUN!
It's okay if you get a little help from your parents.
AT LEAST YOU'LL GET AN A ON THAT PART.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HELLO...THIS IS FANTASTIC OBJECTS R US...
YEAH, YEAH.
MY THIRD EYE DOESN'T COME WITH AN EYELID. HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BLINK?!! I WANT MY MONEY BACK. NO IFS, ANDS OR BUTS!
MA'AM, STARTING YOUR DAY ANGRY AT THE WORLD WILL NOT SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS. I SUGGEST YOU REFLECT ON THAT BEFORE YOU CALL AGAIN. GOOD DAY!
[CLICK]
MA'AM?!! I'M A BOY BEAR!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're independent and self-sufficient. You have strong goals you wish to achieve. You will do so, whether openly and flamboyantly or quietly behind the scenes. You simply want to achieve what you set out to do. You have a strong need for privacy. This year is full of many exciting beginnings for you. Be hopeful. **Birthdate of:** August Wilson, playwright; Anouk Aimee, actress; Coretta Scott King, civil-rights activist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might be involved with money more than usual now. You're either trying to earn more or busy spending more—or both!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): All kinds of people are suddenly attracted to you now. That's because the Sun is in your sign. Enjoy this popularity. Be kind and patient with others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With both Venus and Mars in your sign now, you find it easy to be charming with everyone. People want to be in your presence. They're attracted to your positive energy.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be ready to listen to others now. What they have to say to you might be worth listening to! It could help you make an important decision about your future goals.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Others notice you now! With the Sun at high noon in your chart, a heavenly spotlight is on you. Furthermore, Venus and Mars definitely boost your popularity now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to do something to expand your experience of life in some way. It might be as minor as going to a new restaurant or as major as visiting a new country.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It would be very wise for you to take care of bills and matters connected with insurance, taxes and shared possessions. Do whatever you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Listen carefully to others now. You're in a position to be able to benefit from the wealth of others. People might give you gifts or favors now.

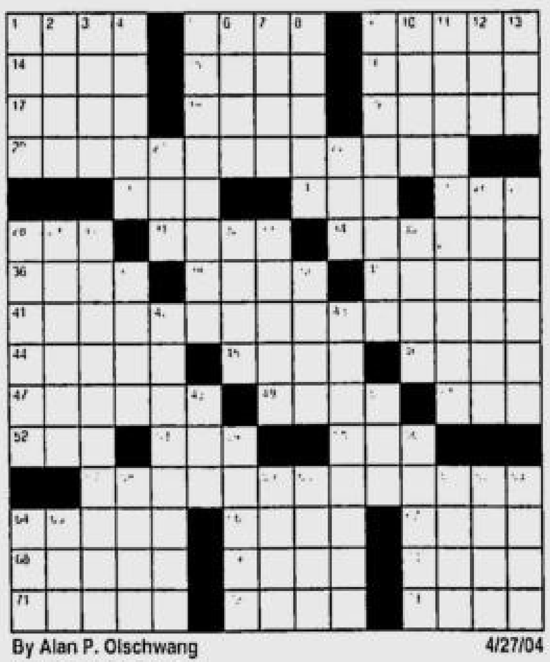
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be patient with someone who might be jealous of you. Your ability to work hard and enjoy good times with friends might make someone envious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Some of you will find new romance now. Be willing to take a risk. Don't hold back because you fear rejection (which every Capricorn does).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family reunions, romantic liaisons and home entertaining are just some reasons you're busy enjoying yourself lately. Appreciate these good times with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good time to redecorate or make where you live look more attractive. You're shopping more than usual. You might want to buy something now that you saw somewhere before.

DAILY CROSSWORD

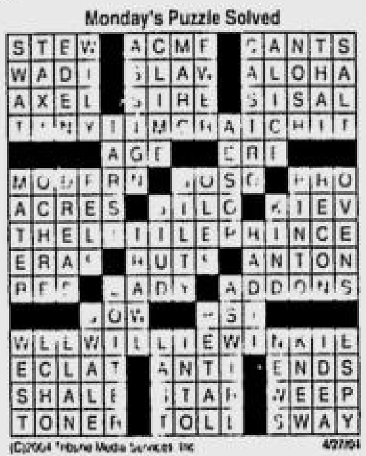


By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
4/27/04

ACROSS
1 Custard treat
5 Biggers' detective
9 Checked out the joint
14 Prom transport
15 Singer Falana
16 Left bed
17 "Typee" sequel
18 Armageddon in brief
19 Put into service again
20 Medical specialty
23 Dawn goddess
24 Poetic contraction
25 "48 __"
28 High peak
31 Fifty percent
34 Pointed stake
36 Superman's sweetie
38 Dove sounds
40 One Judd
41 Whole shebang
44 Invite to enter
45 Danny or Stubby
46 Dispatched
47 Greek advisor
49 Meadows to a poet
51 Circulars
52 Retirement grp.
53 Ump's call
55 Narrow inlet
57 "If I Had a Hammer" group
64 Italian violinmaker
66 Legendary lawman
67 Rene's friend
68 Tag line from Aesop
69 Florence flower
70 Actress Foch
71 Like a nitpicker
72 Adolescent
73 Words missing from theme entries

DOWN
1 Ice mass
2 Peru's capital
3 Latin love
4 Opposite of everybody
5 One of superior quality
6 Diamond name
7 Thanks __!
8 Night in Nuremburg
9 North or South state
10 Precinct
11 Asian nation
12 Superman's letter
13 Billy __ Williams
21 Expression of wonderment
22 Grave letters?
26 Repair again
27 Wading birds
28 Pinkerton and Ramsay
29 Sets free
30 Refutes by detailed examination
32 Appearance
33 Word with point or length
35 Automobiles
37 Revue part
39 Actress Ione
42 Arrogantly
43 Influence
48 Regret
50 RSVP part
54 Trick partner
56 Maytag rival
58 French state
59 Peel
60 "Rule Britannia" composer
61 Dictator Idi
62 Peel
63 Some votes
64 Elec. unit
65 A Stooge

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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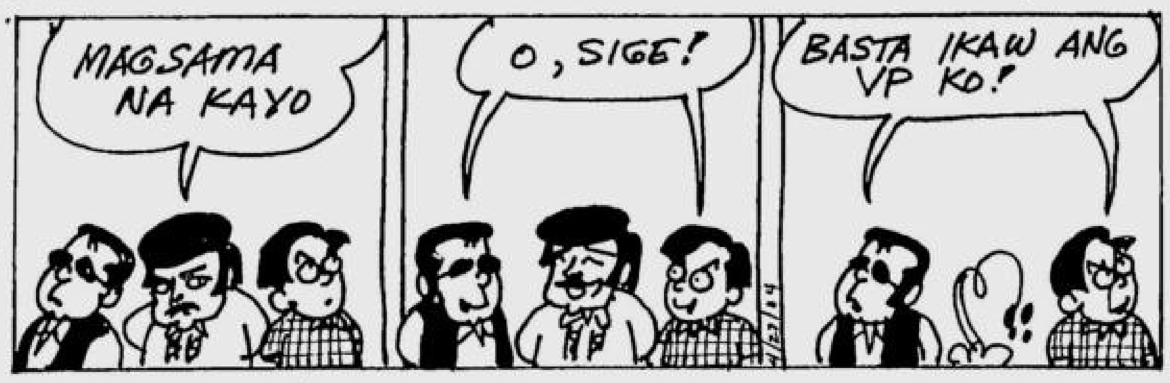
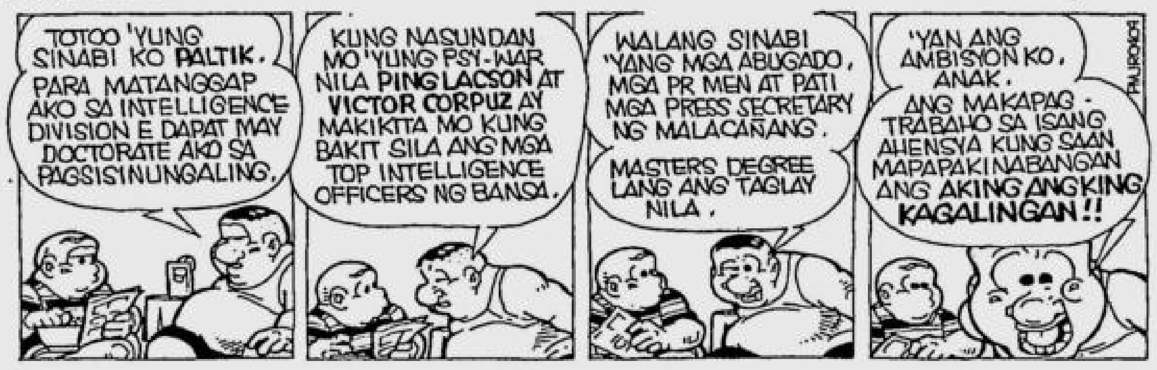
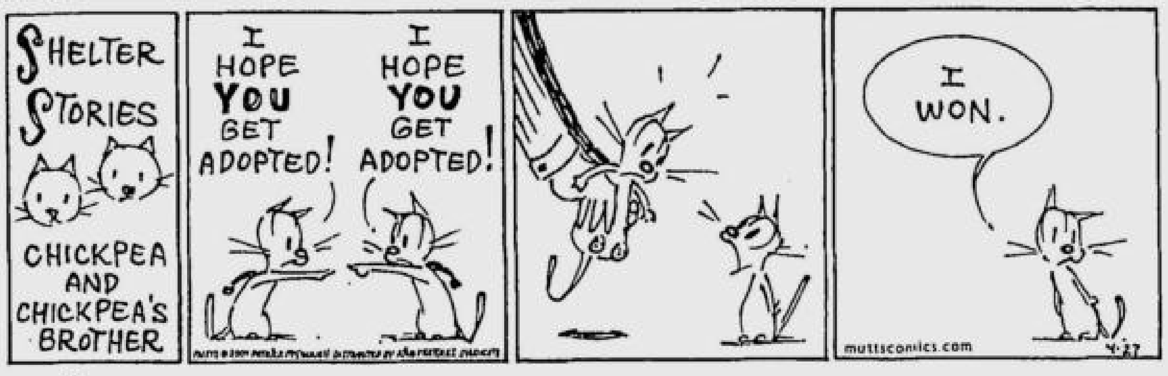
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MAGSAMA NA KAYO
O, SIGE!
BASTA IKAW ANG VP KO!

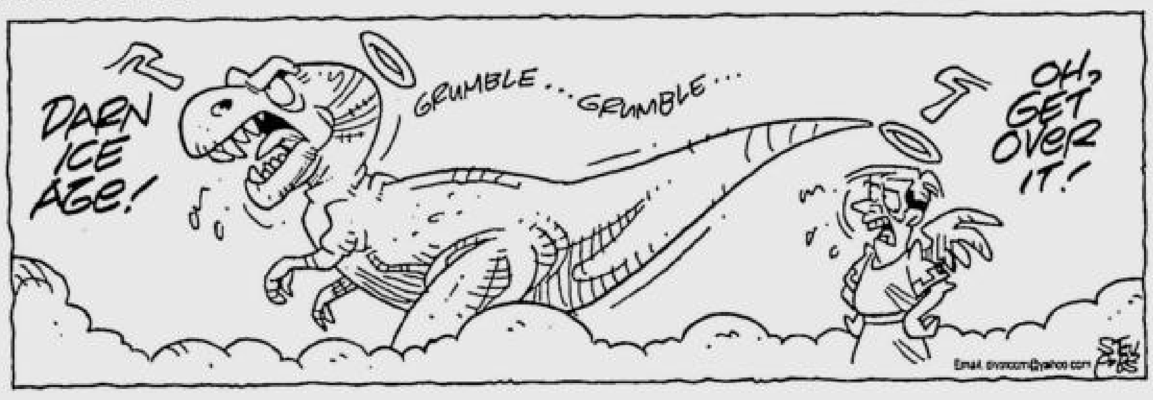
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


TOTOO 'YUNG SINABI KO PALTIK. PARA MATANGGAP AKO SA INTELLIGENCE DIVISION E DAPAT MAY DOCTORATE AKO SA PAGSISINUNGALING.
KUNG NASUNDAN MO 'YUNG PSY-WAR NILA PING LACSON AT VICTOR CORPUZ AY MAKIKITA MO KUNG BAKIT SILA ANG MGA TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS NG BANSA.
WALANG SINABI 'YANG MGA ABUGADO, MGA PR MEN AT PATI MGA PRESS SECRETARY NG MALACAÑANG.
MASTERS DEGREE LANG ANG TAGLAY NILA.
'YAN ANG AMBISYON KO, ANAK.
ANG MAKAPAG-TRABAHO SA ISANG AHENSYA KUNG SAAN MAPAPAKINABANGAN ANG AKING ANGKING KAGALINGAN!!
PM.JR

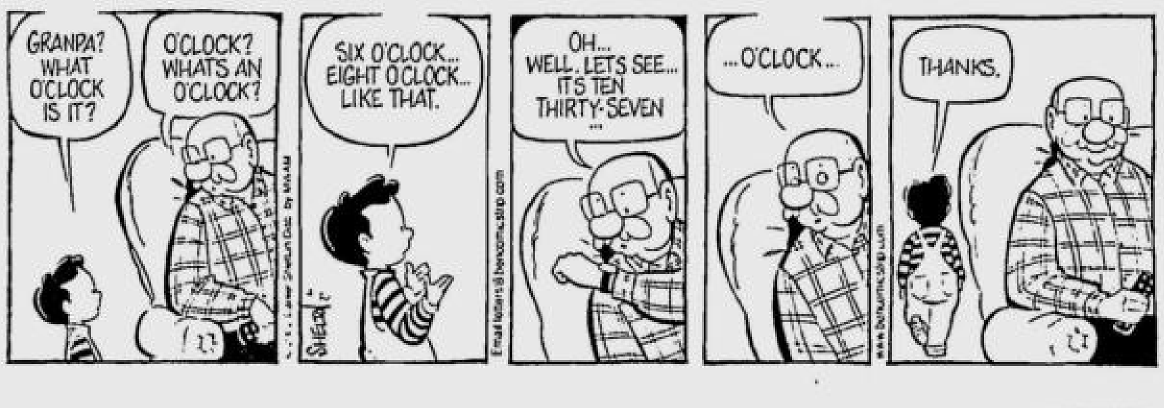
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
CHICKPEA AND CHICKPEA'S BROTHER
I HOPE YOU GET ADOPTED!
I HOPE YOU GET ADOPTED!
I WON.
muttscomics.com
4-27

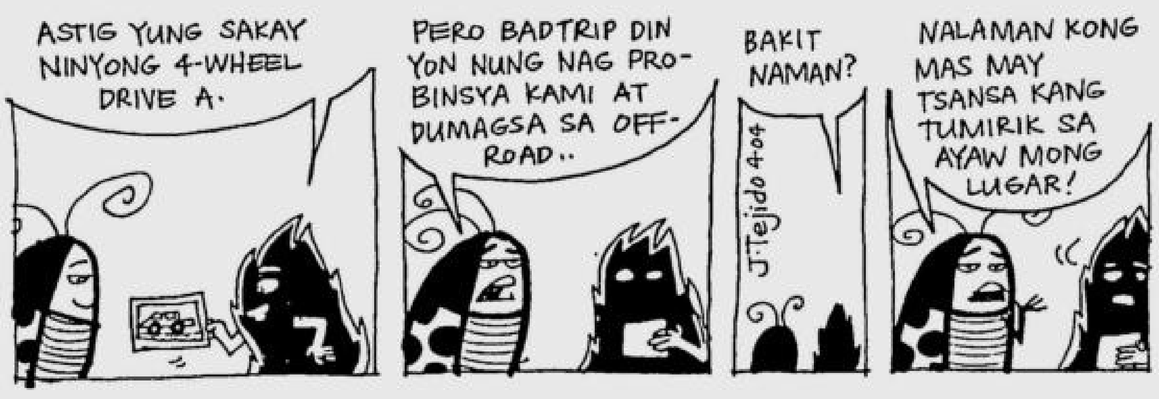
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DARN ICE AGE!
GRUMBLE... GRUMBLE...
OH, GET OVER IT!

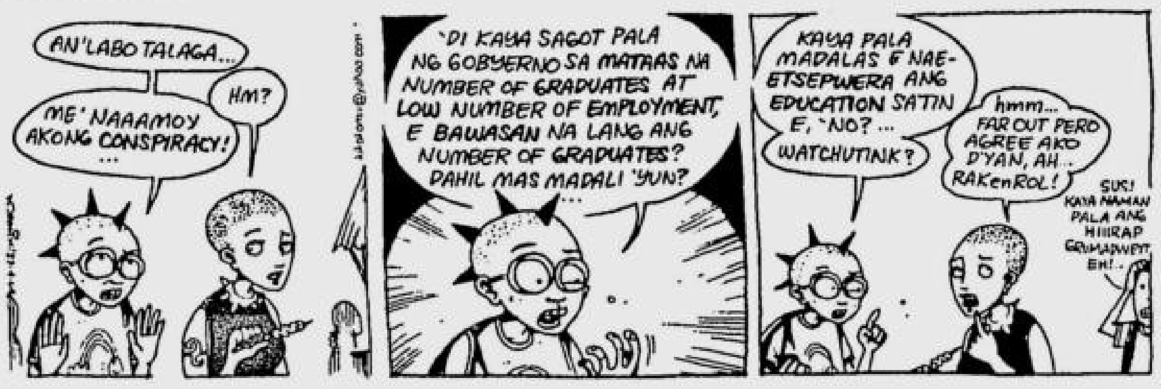
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GRANPA? WHAT O'CLOCK IS IT?
O'CLOCK? WHATS AN O'CLOCK?
SIX O'CLOCK... EIGHT O'CLOCK... LIKE THAT.
OH... WELL, LETS SEE... ITS TEN THIRTY-SEVEN ...
...O'CLOCK...
THANKS.

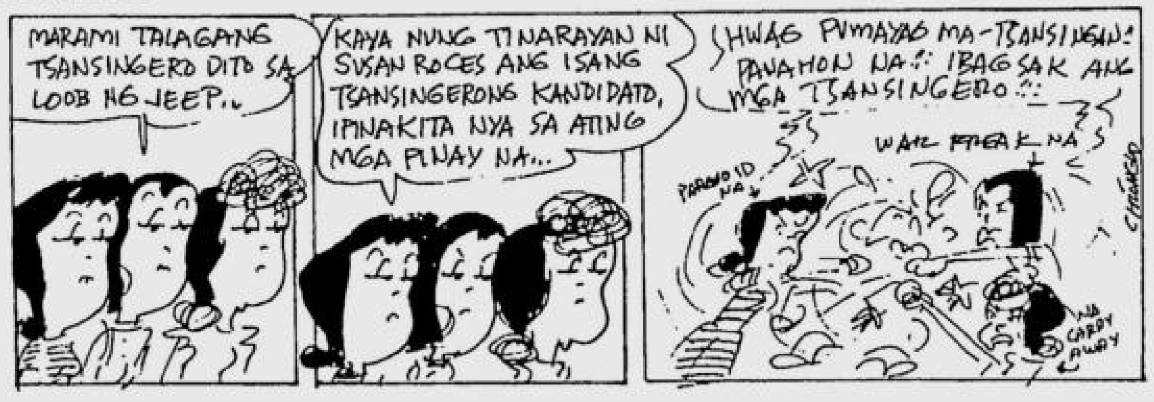
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG YUNG SAKAY NINYONG 4-WHEEL DRIVE A.
PERO BADTRIP DIN YON NUNG NAG PROBINSYA KAMI AT DUMAGSA SA OFF-ROAD..
BAKIT NAMAN?
NALAMAN KONG MAS MAY TSANSA KANG TUMIRIK SA AYAW MONG LUGAR!
J. Tejido 4-04

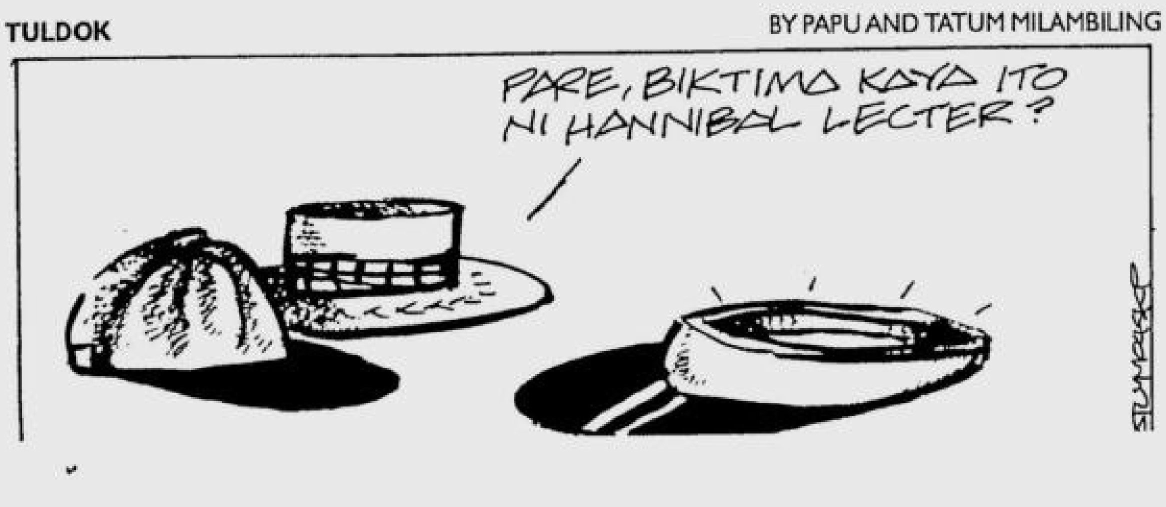
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AN'LABO TALAGA...
ME' NAAAMOY AKONG CONSPIRACY! ...
HM?
'DI KAYA SAGOT PALA NG GOBYERNO SA MATAAS NA NUMBER OF GRADUATES AT LOW NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT, E BAWASAN NA LANG ANG NUMBER OF GRADUATES? DAHIL MAS MADALI 'YUN? ...
KAYA PALA MADALAS E NAE-ETSEPWERA ANG EDUCATION SATIN E, 'NO? ...
WATCHUTINK?
hmm... FAR OUT PERO AGREE AKO D'YAN, AH... RAKenROL!
SUS! KAYA NAMAN PALA ANG HIIRAP GRUMADWEYT EH!..

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MARAMI TALAGANG TSANSINGERO DITO SA LOOB NG JEEP..
KAYA NUNG TINARAYAN NI SUSAN ROCES ANG ISANG TSANSINGERONG KANDIDATO, IPINAKITA NYA SA ATING MGA PINAY NA...
HWAG PUMAYAG MA-TSANSINGAN! PANAHON NA!! IBAGSAK ANG MGA TSANSINGERO!!
PARANOID NA
WAIL FREAK NA
NA CARRY AWAY

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, BIKTIMA KAYA ITO NI HANNIBAL LECTER?

An invitation to become a true Filipino

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Company and the Philippine Educational Theater Association take an active role in educating the voting public this elections with "Ang Boto ni Botong," an original play written by Palanca Award-winning playwright Rody Vera.

The play, directed by Soxie Topacio, is the story of a young man coming of age in Philippine politics.

Botong is the son for a former Barangay Captain in Barrio Maligalig. He has just turned 18. Despite the rigors of lining up for more than seven hours to register, his excitement grows as the national elections draw near since this is the first time that he would vote.

He decides to be active in the electoral process. Together with his *barkada*, Botong confronts one obstacle after another in their attempt to draw the community together in the search for the meaning of what a true voter is.

Set to the music of Vince de Jesus with lyrics by Rody Vera and Vince de Jesus, "Ang Boto ni Botong" will be staged at the Cinema 4 of SM Megamall on April 20, May 1 and 2. Shows are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on all dates.

Admission is free for audience of voting age. Seats are first come, first served.

For inquiries, call Peta at 410-0822 or 724-9637, 0918-9354166 or 0917-5394707, or e-mail petampro@yahoo.com

---

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972

RESERVED SEATING

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1	PAY CHECK 12:05, 2:45, 5:25 8:05, 10:45 PG-13
2	HELLBOY 12:05, 2:45, 5:25 8:05, 10:45 PG-13
3	HELLBOY 11:20, 2:00, 4:40 7:20, 10:00 PG-13
4	PETER PAN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00 6:20, 8:40, 10:55 GP

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	MISSING
2 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	PAYCHECK
4 GOLD (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPARTAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TAKING LIVES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
8 [illegible]	BOOBITA ROSE
9 [illegible]	TWISTED
10 [illegible]	PETER PAN

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
4 (DOLBY)	PETER PAN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	CHECK INN
2	HELLBOY
3	BOOBITA ROSE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	SPARTAN
	HELLBOY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CHECK INN
5	

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	SPARTAN
2	CHECK INN
3	TAKING LIVES
4	BOOBITA ROSE
5	HELLBOY
6	PAYCHECK

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	HELLBOY
2	TWISTED

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) tel 892.2503
LUCASFILM THX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	50 FIRST DATE
2	SCOOBY DOO-2

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	GHOST HOUSE
2	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5	RESERVE
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	CHECK INN
2	PETER PAN
3	BOOBITA ROSE
4 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
5	RESERVE
6 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
7 (DTS)	RESERVE
8	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
9	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS)	TWISTED
4	CHECK INN
5 (SDDS)	HELLBOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

—

Dilson
Lords

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HELLBOY
2	SPARTAN
3	CHECK INN
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SPARTAN
2	THE CURSE
3	CHECK - INN
4	BOOBITA ROSE
5	HELLBOY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	HIGHWAYMEN
2	CHECK INN

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. [illegible]

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HELLBOY
4 (SDDS)	SPARTAN
5 (DTS)	PAY CHECK
6	TWISTED
7	BOOBITA ROSE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HELLBOY
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS EX)	TAKING LIVES
4	GRUDGE 2

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PAYCHECK
3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
4 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	WISE GIRL
3 (DOLBY)	HIDALGO
4	UNINVITED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PAYCHECK
3 (DTS)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DTS)	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
4	PAYCHECK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	PAYCHECK
4	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	HAUNTED OFFICE
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DOLBY)	HIDALGO

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	HIGHWAY MEN
3 (DOLBY)	BONE SNATCHERS
4 (DTS)	THE GRUDGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	PASSION OF CHRIST
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	HELLBO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	UNINVITED
2	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
3	PORNOGRAPHER
4 (DTS)	SEX EDUCATION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3 (DTS)	PAY CHECK
4	KARIBAL
5	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PUR
2	ACACIA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	HELLBOY
2	ACACIA
3	PAY CHECK

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	PETER PAN
2	ACACIA
3 (DTS)	BOOBITA ROSE
4 (DOLBY)	50 FIRST DATE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3	PAYCHECK
4	PETER PAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	VENUS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Mall
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

SCOOBY-DOO 2
MONSTERS UNLEASHED
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Dracula, Wolf Man and Frankenstein... only one man can destroy them all.

From the director of
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"MUMMY RETURNS."
UNIVERSAL PICTURES
PRESENTS
MAGIC 89.9
VAN HELSING
HUGH JACKMAN
KATE BECKINSALE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	CHECK -INN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ANIMAL
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-2	CHECK INN
CINEMA-3	TWISTED
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-6	NIGHTMARE
CINEMA-7	ACACIA
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HELLBOY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPARTAN
CINEMA-12	PETER PAN
CINEMA-14	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-15	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-1	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-2	PETER PAN
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	HELLBOY 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 P13
CINEMA 2	SPARTAN 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50 P13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

APR 26 & 27	"GARY V."	8:00PM
MAY 1 & 2	"MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL"	4:00 PM

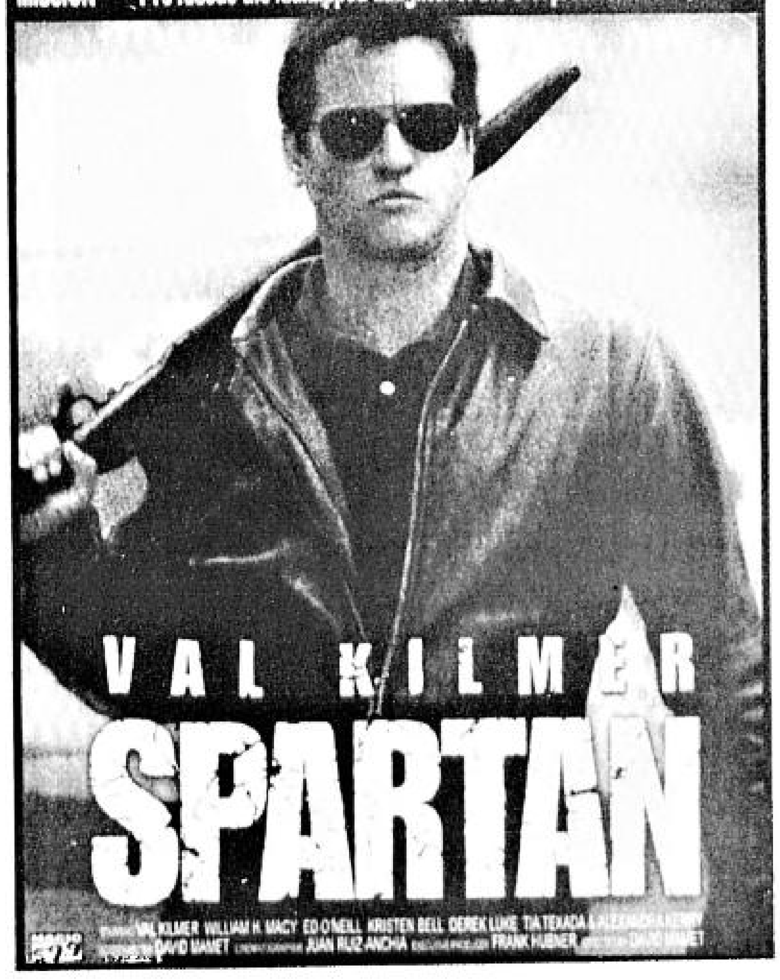
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

NOW SHOWING

WALANG TAKOT!

A man without fear.
He's given the most dangerous assignments and he never fails.

NAME : Robert Scott
CAREER : Military Officer working in a highly secretive special operations force.
EXPERIENCE : A man hardened by years of brutal service in the world of espionage.
MISSION : To rescue the kidnapped daughter of the U.S. president.



Intrusive camerawork

From page A31

so they shouldn't be handled melodramatically. All too often, this key distinction is forgotten or ignored, thus exposing such programs to changes of insensitivity and intrusive exploitation that run counter to the caring, helpful image that they work so hard to create.

'Onscreen'

MELLOW Touch 94.7 recently launched "Onscreen," special premieres of popular, new films. The advance screenings of "Confession of a Teenage Drama Queen," will be held on May 3 at SM Megamall Cinema 1.

The film stars **Lindsay Cohan** as Lola, a newly displaced teen, whose family has relocated from the trendy life of New York City, to the urban sprawl of Dellwood, New Jersey.

Out of place in the suburban town, Lola sets her sights on the lead in the school play, while fantasizing about her favorite rock group, and how her life should be.

When she learns that her fave group is disbanding and is staging its farewell concert in New York City, Lola pulls out all the stops to make it to the concert, and meet the lead singer.

'Troy'

In" Troy," the illicit love between Prince Paris of Troy (**Orlando Bloom**) and Queen Helen of Sparts (**Daiane Kruger**) ignites a war between the Trojans and the United tribes of Greece.

When the two civilizations clash, legendary warrior Achilles (**Brad Pitt**) emerges as the key to the Greeks' victory or defeat over the seemingly invincible army of Troy, led by the mighty Prince Hector (**Eric Bana**).

Despite the production's huge battle scenes, the story's focus is on the timeless human aspect of the victories and defeats that the ancient poet Homer recorded.

Feedback

FROM **Elise Advincula** of Makati City: "Recently, you wrote about film clubs that enable movie lovers to add to their appreciation of the best that cinema has to offer. How can we start one in our office? We have a number of people who really love movies. Is there an organization we can consult?"

NUT: We know that the CCP and the WCCA screen quality movies, and the embassies occasionally offer special screenings. Plus, if you survey the cable movie channels, you can discover some marvels.

But, if you want to form your own film club, you may have to do it alone. It really isn't that difficult.

We once helped put up a cine club in a downtown university, and all that was needed was a big TV set, VHS, VCD and DVD players, and tapes and discs of outstanding films.

For each screening, we would invite a resource person to make the discussion after the screenings truly informed and lively.

The really tough challenge is to keep the club going, due to the usual *ningas cogon* mentality in these parts. If your group can lick that, great! And, happy viewing.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TWISTED R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	PETER PAN GP 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	HELLBOY PG13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
PAYCHECK PG13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	SPARTAN PG13 1:40, 3.50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	HELLBOY PG13 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

After X-Men & LXG comes a new special-effects-packed comicbook adventure !
7TH 'ACTION SHOWDOWN' DAY !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
HERE TO PROTECT
HELLBOY
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
Hellboy-Movie.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
OPENS TOMORROW !
More terrifying than "GOTHIKA"
One of the scariest movies you'll ever see
Based on a true story
HAUNTED SPIRIT
SCREAM ALL YOU C...
SHU CHI ATHENA CHU NICK CHEUNG TIFFANY LEE FRANCIS NG
www.incubus.com
Directed by: Billy Chung

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

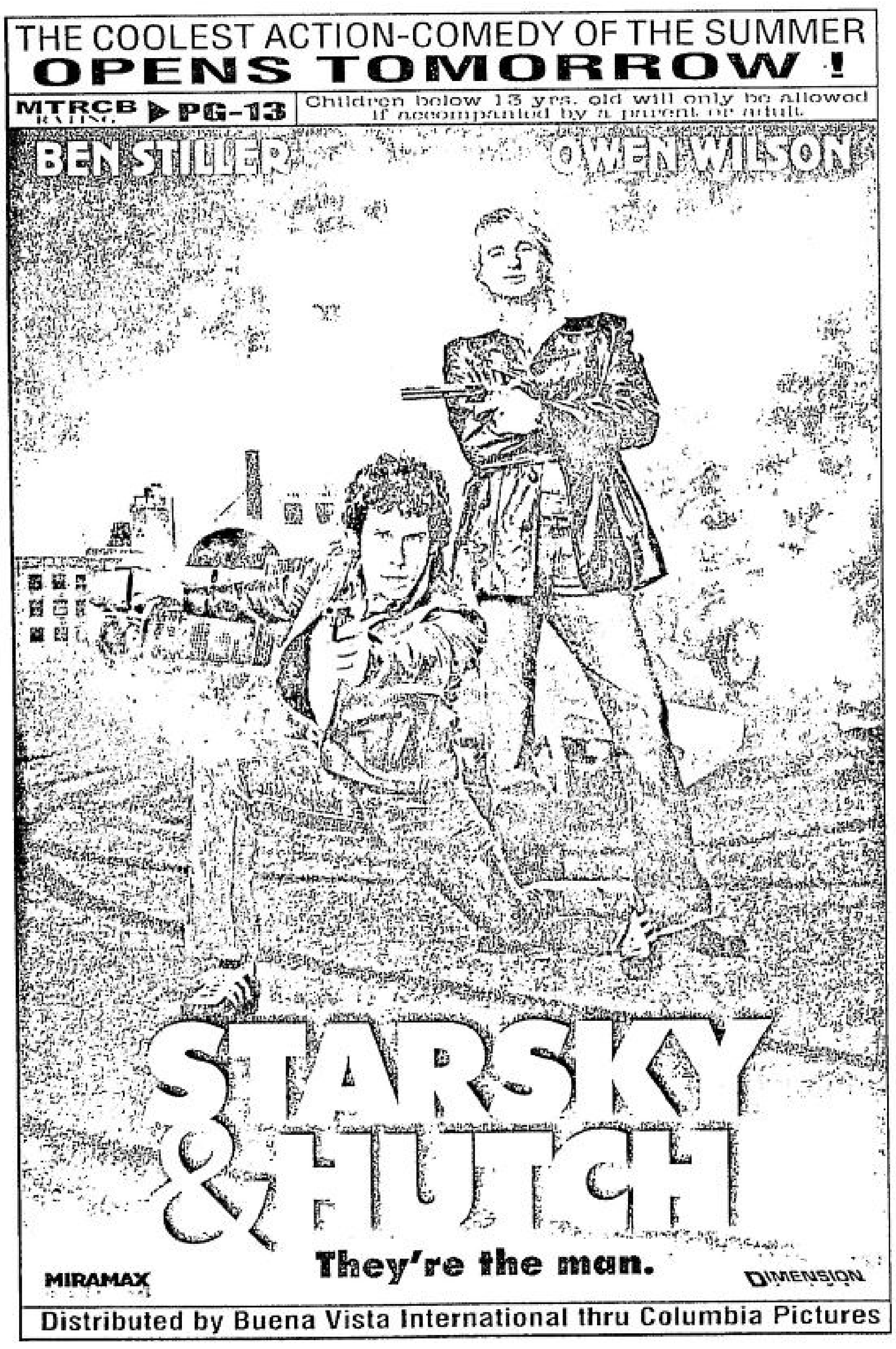
Ali 3	HELLBOY
Ali 4	SPARTAN
Ali 5	PAYCHECK
Ali 6	TWISTED
Ali 7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB

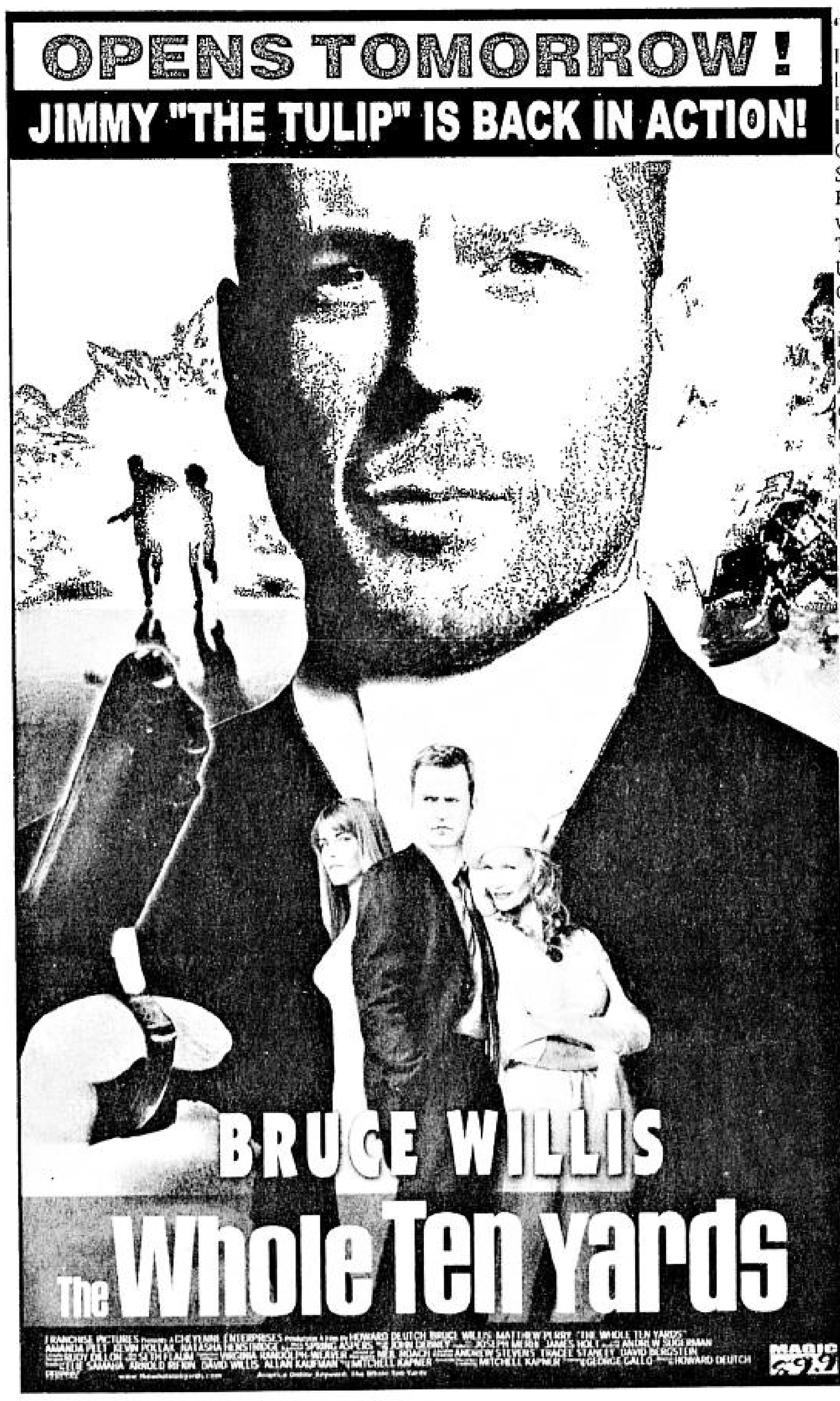
NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

APR 30	ANDREA BOCELLI LIVE IN MANILA
MAY 1	PBA : ALASKA VS. SHELL
MAY 2	PBA : RED BULL VS. FEDEX
MAY 3	AMA GRADUATION
MAY 4	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 5	PBA : ALASKA VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 6	NCA7-COCK DERBY
MAY 9	PBA: FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA. LUCIA VS. GINEBRA

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

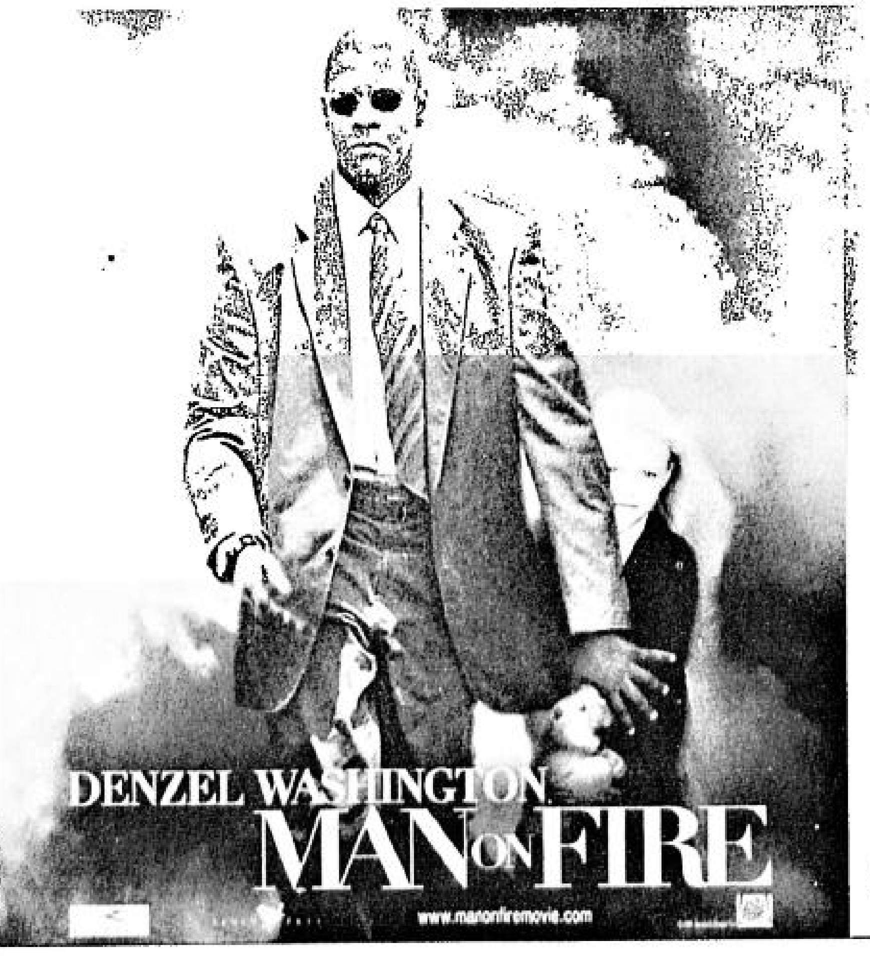

THE COOLEST ACTION-COMEDY OF THE SUMMER
OPENS TOMORROW !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
BEN STILLER OWEN WILSON
STARSKY & HUTCH
They're the man.
MIRAMAX
DIMENSION
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


OPENS TOMORROW !
JIMMY "THE TULIP" IS BACK IN ACTION!
BRUCE WILLIS
The Whole Ten Yards
MAGIC 89.9

MTRCB RATING

Oscar winner Denzel Washington stars as Creasy, a government operative / soldier of fortune, who has pretty much given up on life.

In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect Pita (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit. When Pita was kidnapped and presumed dead, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible, and he stops at nothing to save her.


DENZEL WASHINGTON
MAN ON FIRE
www.manonfiremovie.com

Kidnapping facts in Mexico City:
- a kidnapping occurs every six hours on average
- average asking price is around $280,000 and the final payment usually negotiated to about $19,000.
- about 80 or 90 percent of the 'kidnappable' people were kidnapped
- TAXI GRAB: As many as 4,000 'express' kidnappings occur in Mexico each year. Passengers in unlicensed taxis are driven to ATMs and forced to withdraw money

OPENS TOMORROW !

GMA 7 asks NTC to dismiss ABS-CBN case for lack of merit and jurisdiction

By Clarissa S. Batino

CITING lack of merit and jurisdiction, GMA Network Inc. has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to dismiss the case filed by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. for alleged "false and malicious reporting" of the Dolphy issue by GMA 7.

GMA also invoked the freedom of speech and expression in reporting about Dolphy, a public figure who had declared his support to fellow actor Fernando Poe Jr.

In a letter submitted to the NTC on Friday, but dated April 19, GMA denied charges made by ABS-CBN that it falsely reported on the Dolphy issue, that it cited no specific source and that it failed to air the side of ABS-CBN.

Not applicable

"GMA Network maintains that its reporting on the Dolphy story was fair, objective and balanced as opposed to ABS-CBN's claim that GMA made no effort to confirm the veracity of the story," Roberto Lucila, officer-in-charge of GMA's legal affairs told reporters.

In its detailed reply to the NTC regarding the competitor's allegations, GMA also pointed out that the Television Code the Commission said it could invoke in the case was not applicable.

Lucila also cited a justice department opinion in 1999, which said that NTC's regulatory powers covered only the technical aspect of the operations of broadcast networks and cable television firms.

Ruse

He said the NTC, based on the justice department's opinion, could not regulate the content of media outfits. If at all, it should be the Movie Television Review and Classification Board that could regulate TV networks' content, Lucila said.

In a letter dated April 6, ABS-CBN asked the NTC to penalize GMA 7 for allegedly violating its franchise when it reported during the March 22 edition of "24 Oras" and "Saksi" that Dolphy's "Home Along Da Airport" was to be axed after the comedian actively campaigned for presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

GMA also reported, according to ABS-CBN, that the planned cancelation of Dolphy's show was part of a deal allegedly struck by the Lopezes with Malacañang in exchange for the government decision to take over Maynilad Water Services Inc.

"Stripped of its embellishments, the ABS-CBN complaint is but a ruse to impose censorship on its rival network, GMA, on a matter of public interest. This complaint is therefore a blatant assault on the freedom of speech and expression and must be dismissed outright," said Lucila in GMA's letter to NTC Chair Ronald Solis.

The NTC asked GMA last week to answer the ABS-CBN's complaint, "noting that the same may be an apparent violation of the Television Code, specifically B2 and B3.1 of the Program Standards on News and Public Affair.

The Television Code, according to the NTC, required networks to quote either primary or secondary news sources, and for news reporting to be "factual, fair and as objective as possible." The Code also provided that "unconfirmed reports shall be identified as such and verified for accuracy at the soonest possible time."

But Lucila said the circular issued by the NTC in 1982 on the adoption of the Television Code was not published in a newspaper of general circulation nor filed with the UP Law Center as required under the Administrative Code of 1987.

Thus, the Television Code could not be invoked by the NTC, the lawyer said.

In GMA 7's letter to the NTC, the network said that major newspaper dailies have been carrying the Dolphy story before Channel 7 picked it up. The network also said it contacted ABS-CBN but was told to refer to the press statement, which GMA 7 also aired in its news programs.

According to GMA, ABS-CBN's press statement carried no denial that Dolphy's program was being canceled.

"What ABS-CBN denied was that politics had something to do with a purely show business issue," GMA noted.

"GMA Network Inc. considers it preposterous for ABS-CBN to also claim that GMA 7 had reported these stories because ABS-CBN is a competitor and because GMA 7 will benefit from making reports that will put ABS-CBN or its management in a bad light.

"The reports had been the subject of stories for some days in the print media even before GMA 7 aired them and that the stories in both GMA Network and the print media are the same in practically all respects. Yet the print media are not ABS-CBN's competitors. ABS-CBN's conclusion that GMA 7's action was born of malice because ABS-CBN is a competitor is simply illogical and a non sequitur," GMA added.

DID YOU KNOW...

Binibining Pilinas World 2003 **Mafae Yunon** is living in with her boyfriend, basketball player **Nick Belasco**, who is known to be married. According to our sources, Belasco sent his wife and kid to the US so he and Mafae could live together in his Wack Wack condo unit. The beauty queen is frequently seen watching the San Miguel Beerman's games.

Intrusive camerawork

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE WISH-FULFILLMENT show, "Wish Ko Lang," has taken a melodramatic turn of late. Recently, it featured a bum finally reunited with his family, and a man looking for the son he left in a hospital some 12 years ago.

While the two features were creditable human-interest stories, the show disappointed because of the intrusive way that its cameras covered the finales of the two stories.

When the shiftless young man was finally reunited with his parents, the TV camera was practically shoved into their weeping faces, depriving them of the privacy and dignity that was theirs by emotional and psychological right.

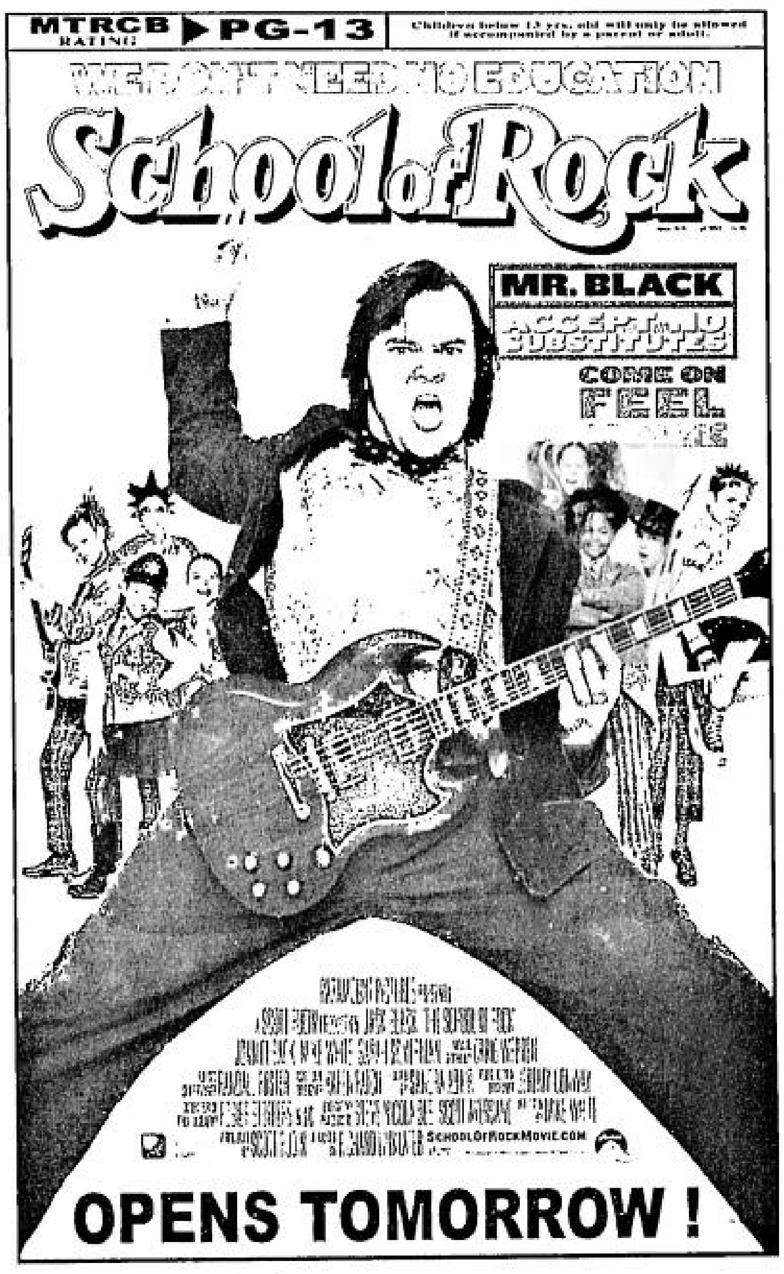
As the intrusive camerawork betrayed the show's melodramatic intent for viewership's sakes, we were impressed with the young man's parents' innate self-possession. Although they were crying, they kept their dignity and good judgment—which is more than we can say for the show's coverage.

In the case of the neglectful man finally meeting up with his long-lost son, the boy was similarly self-possessed, but the TV camera once again intruded into the reunited family's private space.

It's true that people who agree to appear on the show implicitly give their permission for their case to be covered by TV cameras. But the camerawork should still avoid being intrusive and in-your-face, because there are deep, private emotions to be respected.

Reality-based shows should remind themselves that real sentiments are being felt in the cases they feature,

INTRUSIVE / A30



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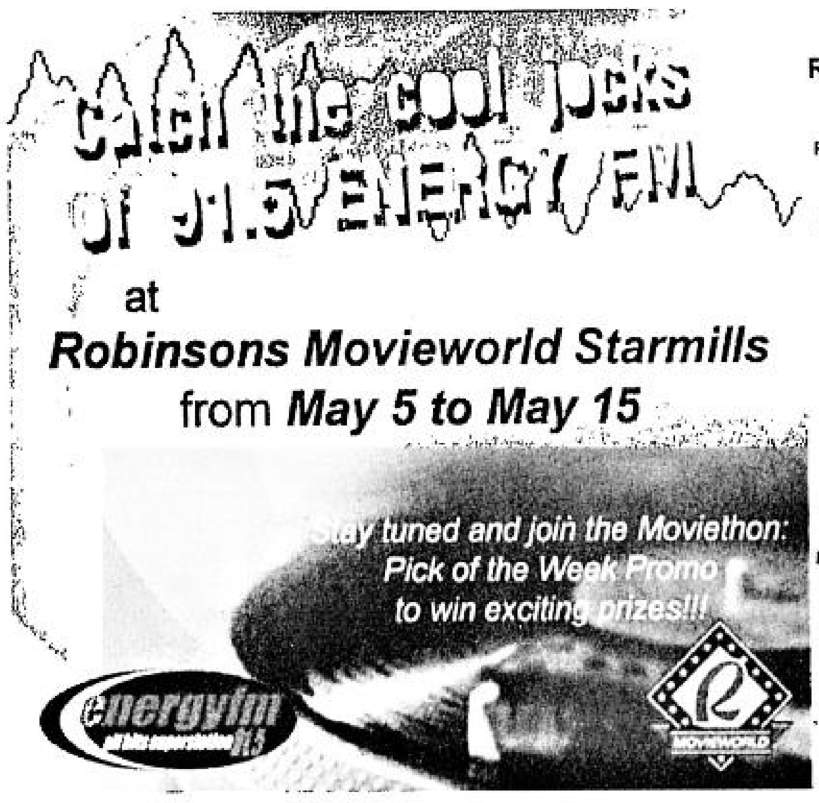

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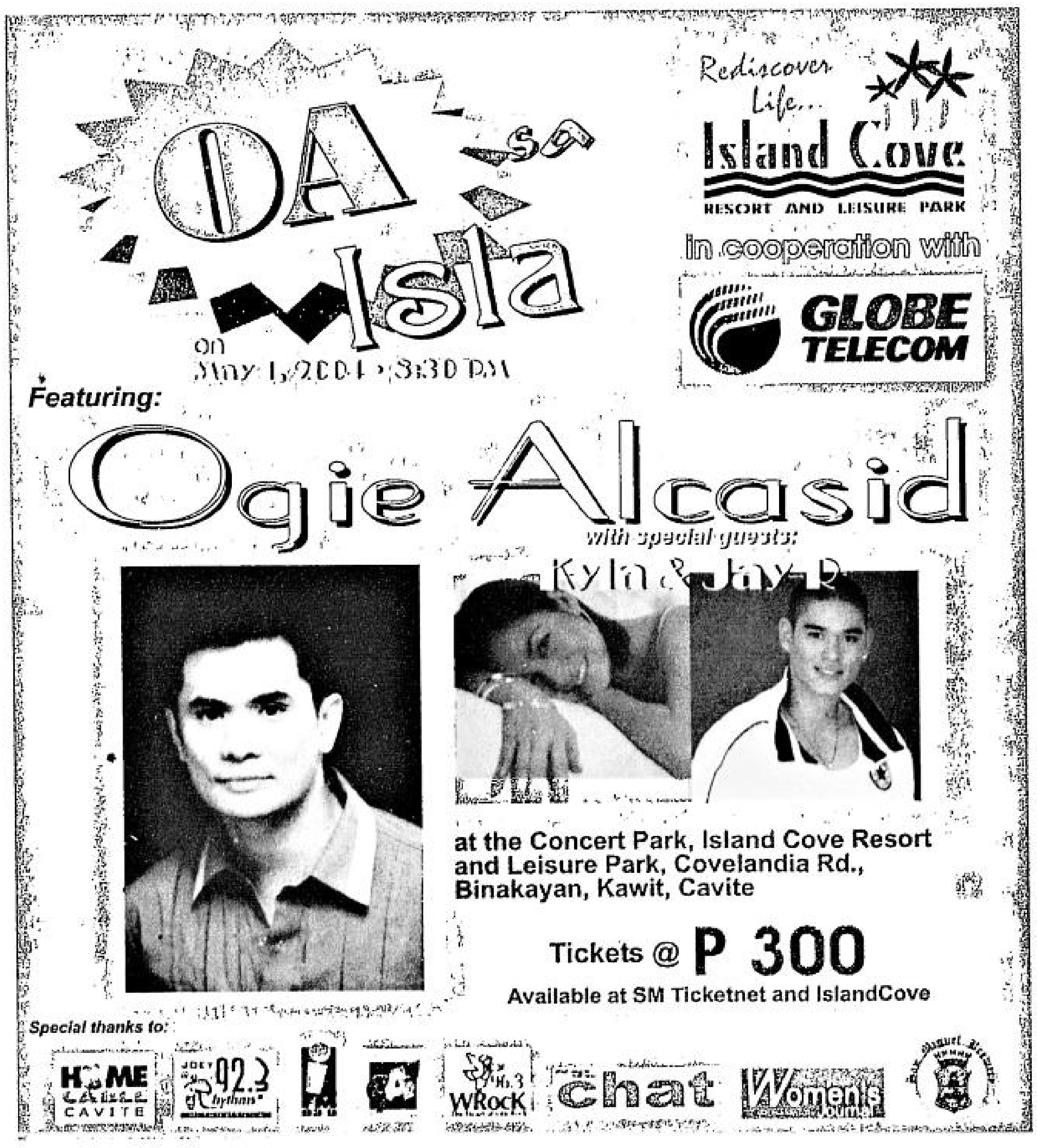

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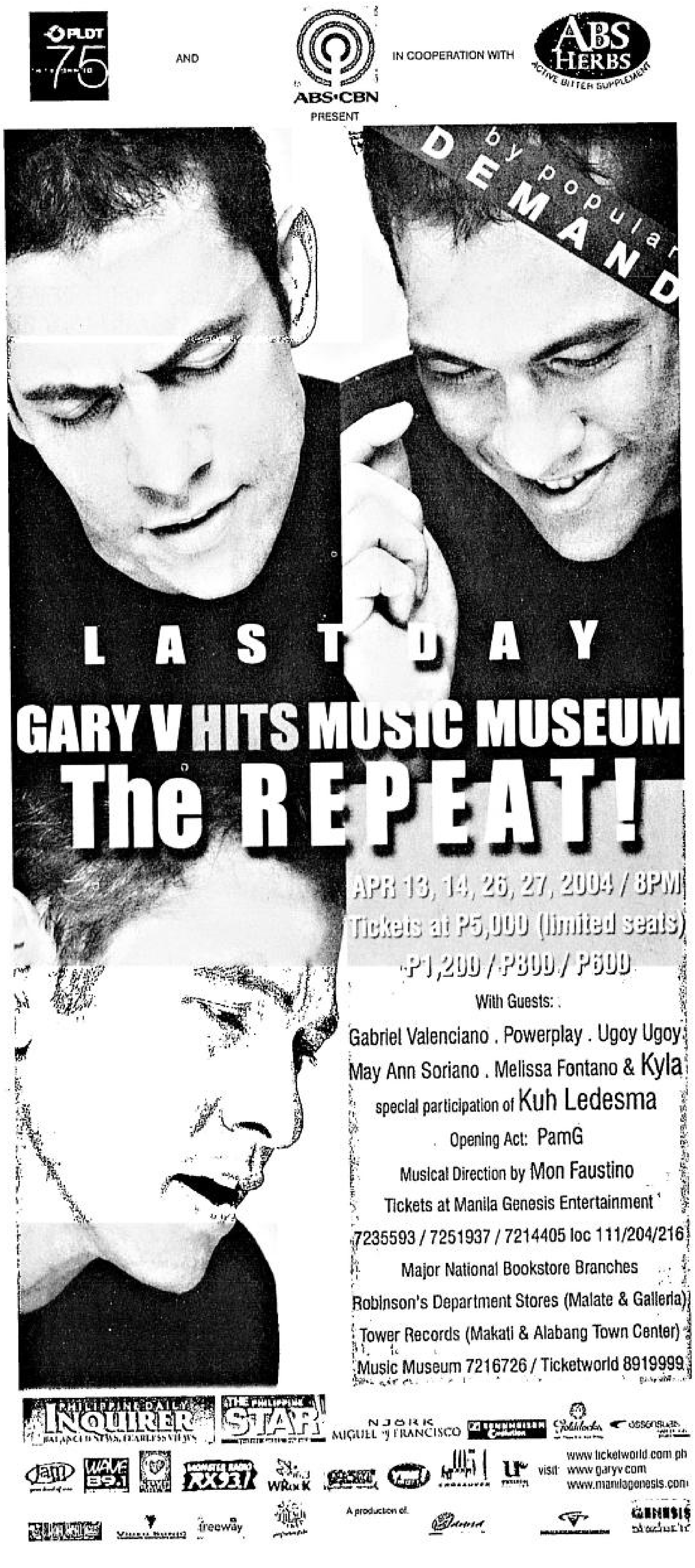

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

BATTLE OF EX-PALS MIGHT LEAD TO COURT

'I am not a bum,' says Osang's hubby

ROCES. Getting ready for the worst

By Nini Valera and Marinel R. Cruz

THIS is what Tito Molina, husband of actress Rosanna Roces, stressed when he broke his silence yesterday regarding the controversy involving his wife and dermatologist Dr. Vicki Belo that dragged his name into the limelight.

"*Nagtatanim na lang nga ako, na-chismis pa ako sa* beauty parlor," Molina quipped jokingly.

He and Rosanna have just acquired a piece of property in Antipolo, Rizal, that they would plant with honeydew melon. His peace was shattered when former friends Rosanna and Belo started bickering on national television a week ago about Flawless Skin Centers, which Osang used to endorse. The actress also owned 20 percent of the business, which she subsequently sold to the other 'owners when the issue broke out.

Molina was one of the issues: Osang only insisted that he be given a job, but according to the owners, they were not happy with his performance

Never employed

"That's true. I was never their employee," Molina told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "I was there to look after my wife's interests."

Molina, an executive of the Asian Development Bank for 12 years, said that when Flawless was being formed by Belo and her partners, one of whom is Joey Santos, Osang asked him to represent her since she had little knowledge about putting up a business.

"So we all pitched in to establish the centers," Molina said.

To help out during the fledgling stage, Molina agreed to oversee the Megamall branch of the center.

"That was the time I went there almost everyday," he said. "*May mga* personnel *na nag-aaway. Ako naman ang nag-to*-trouble shoot. *Walang* salary, *ha*. In the first place, I was never their employee."

MOLINA. Never an employee of Flawless Skin Center.

Molina admits that there was a time after the operational setup of the skin centers was finalized that the possibility of him acting as general manager arose.

"But Joey Santos, one of the partners, pointed out that my being general manager might not be healthy for the partnership with Osang," he said. "*Baka daw maalangan sila na ang asawa ng isa sa may-ari, magiging amo sila*. He had a point there."

Molina said that he then stopped going to Flawless. He also got busy with his other interests, including the farm in Antipolo.

Even when it was made public that Osang and Belo were no longer friends, Molina did not meddle in his wife's affairs. He also did not insist on an internal audit of Flawless to determine how much Osang's 20-percent share of the business was worth.

"*Basta, nandyan na yung bayad na* P1.5 million," he said.

But Molina admitted that he and Osang are getting ready for the worst.

"*Marami na siyang ginawa sa akin na hindi ko na pinatulan*," Osang said. "Like *ginamit niya yung* picture *ko* for ads after I had buttocks augmentation. She did not even ask for my permission. *Ang sabi niya, hindi naman daw alam ng tao na ako 'yon. E káso, alam ko na ako yon*."

No comment

Yesterday, word was out that Belo was suing Osang. The actress also claimed that the doctor's lawyer had complained to GMA 7, which airs the actress' weekly show biz talk show, "Star Talk."

INQUIRER Entertainment called up Belo for comment, but she said she would no longer issue any statement after her interview with "The Buzz" hosts Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino was aired last Sunday.

When asked to confirm reports that she would file charges against Osang, Belo said she is "not sure."

Mabel Sto. Domingo, Flawless Center general manager, claimed the skin centers never received any complaints from patients.

Sto. Domingo has been a Flawless Center employee since July 2002. The first Flawless Center, in SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, was built in 2001, Sto. Domingo said.

Facial treatments

"The products we sell are not harmful," Sto. Domingo said. "In fact, you can even buy products like these anywhere."

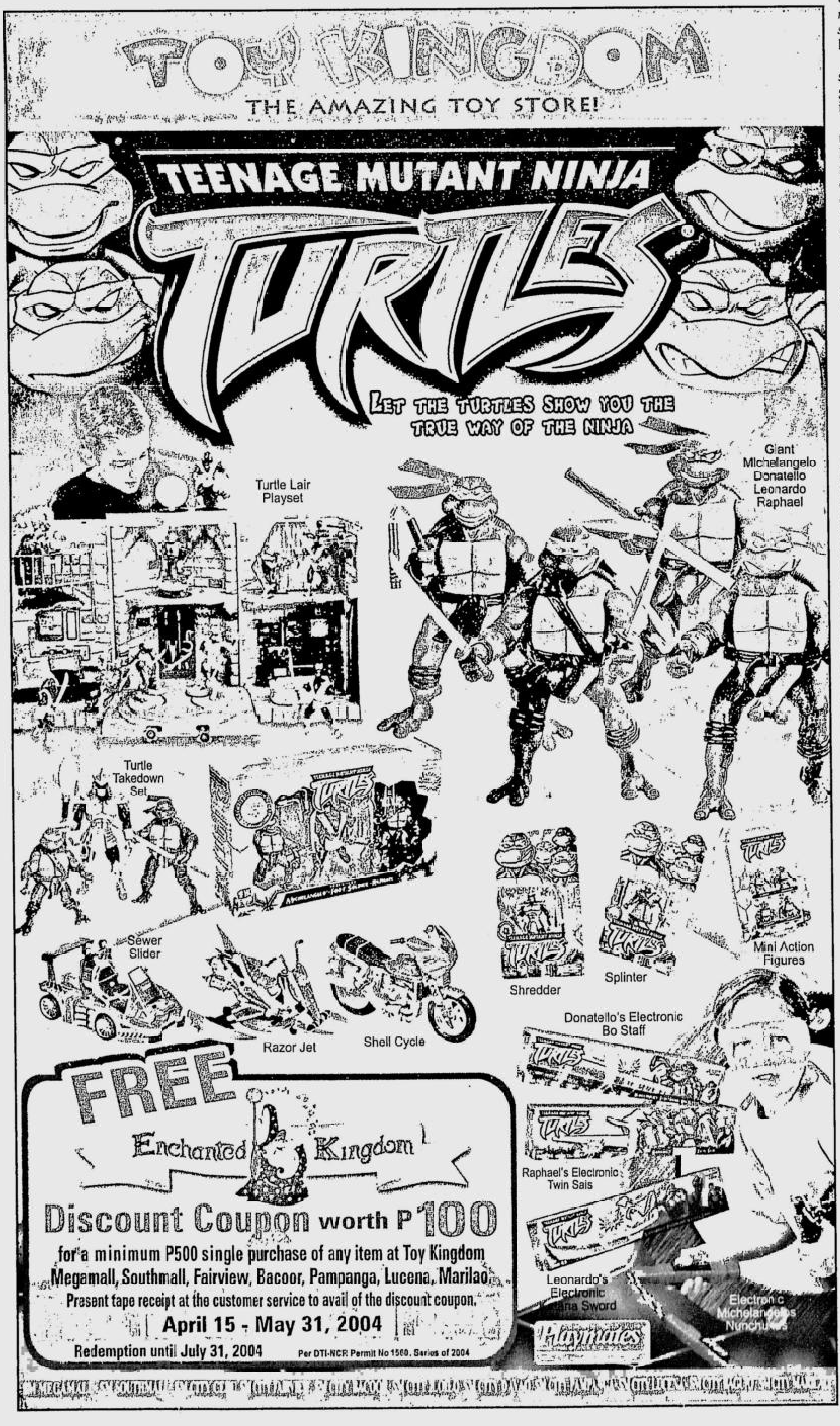
She added that 80 percent of the patients who go to Flawless Skin Centers are interested merely on facial treatments.

"*Hindi ka masusunog ng* facial treatments," Sto. Domingo stressed.

She said warts removal and skin peeling are performed by doctors.

"Because of Osang's statements, *natatakot na ang mga pasyente namin* ," she said.

Sto. Domingo refused to answer any of Tito Molina's statements. She said Ruby Coyiuto, one of the owners of Flawless, is expected to arrive in Manila from New York City today.



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Co-stars affected by Jericho-Cindy LQs

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

A MASSEUSE who used to work in a well-known haven of celebrities for their "vanity rituals" disclosed that her former boss has sexually harassed most of the staff. There was even a time when one lady employee could not hack it anymore so she ran out of the establishment crying and didn't bother to get her stuff. I wonder if the star clients of the said "haven" have any inkling that the very person they entrust with their body for "shaping and maintenance" might end up abusing it. For them, "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure" is not just another cliché.

***

One of ABS-CBN's young stars lamented that he and his co-stars could no longer take the way **Jericho Rosales** and **Cindy Kurleto** try to hide their romance. They are wary to come out in the open to protect Echo's love team with **Kristine Hermosa**, which has a huge following. The actor sighs, "When we have taping with Echo, the whole cast is affected when Cindy and he have an LQ because *wala siya sa* mood *sa* set. We all have to adjust *'pag may* tantrum *na siya*. What Echo wants, Echo gets. Poor Kristine, who has chosen to remain silent about the whole thing. *Siguro, 'pag nag*-expire *na ang* contract *ni* Echo *sa* ABS after a year, *saka pa lang sila aamin ni* Cindy *na hindi naman talaga sila nag*-break."

As I always say, love teams are usually just love schemes!

***

I'm glad that the nasty rumor linking **KC Concepcion** to **Rico Blanco** (of Rivermaya) has been snuffed out. How can any intimate relationship flourish between them when KC is based in Paris? The one who is really involved with a member of Rivermaya is **Danica Sotto**. She told me she is now happy with the band's drummer, **Marc Escueta**.

Reader's Corner

Hi Ms. Dolly,

I would just like to add some info regarding ABS-CBN's unfair labor practice to their workers in the provinces. My friend, who is a DJ of one of ABS-CBN's regional stations, is facing even bigger problems compared with talents in Manila. Aside from the talent status (no regularization), he and other DJ's work underpaid seven days a week and even on holidays all year round without double pay or overtime pay. No 13th month pay or midyear bonus as compared with ABS-CBN regulars who get full and even extra benefits/privileges. He gets a salary of only P2,500 every payday. Their security guard (working under an agency) receives P3,000 or P3,500 every payday! It's so depressing my friend can't even save compared with ABS regulars in their station who get a salary ranging from P15K to P35K! His contract is take-it-or-leave-it, with terms mostly favorable to the network. My DJ friend confided in me after reading your column that's why I decided to write you in his behalf. I don't know if there's still hope for this hapless talent/workforce of ABS-CBN. You're right when you mentioned that upon entering any production room in ABS, you'll find their talents looking like zombies because of overwork and underpay. I think these people carry more of the burden to get the ratings and revenues that ABS-CBN is reaping both for TV and radio! I also agree that if ABS can pay their big stars and regulars well, why not give the same to all their talents. Otherwise, what's the use of the KAPAMILYA thing?

Sincerely yours,

Angel

For feedback e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne-@truefaithband.com

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T-bill yields drop on GMA's poll lead

By Michelle V. Remo

THE APPETITE for short-term government securities got a big boost during yesterday's treasury bill auction from fresh news that President Macapagal-Arroyo had taken a bigger lead over strongest rival and political neophyte Fernando Poe Jr.

The yield for the government's 91-day treasury bill dropped by 49.7 basis points (one percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points) to only 7.161 percent, while that for the 182-day debt paper decreased by 29.4 basis points to 8.367 percent.

For the 364-day bills, it was the first time in more than two months that the Bureau of Treasury accepted bids following a series of rejections due to abnormally high market offers. The rate for the one-year paper stood at 8.897 percent, or 51.3 basis points higher than the 8.384 percent recorded during the auction in February.

"The drop in interest rates was still due to the survey which said she (Ms Macapagal) is still leading the (presidential) race," said National Treasurer Mina Figueroa during a press briefing after the auction. Figueroa said the increased interest in government securities indicated that Ms Macapagal was indeed the "market's candidate."

In the survey conducted by NFO Trends last week, Ms Macapagal got 36.9 percent of votes of the 1,200 respondents compared with the 26.4 percent of Poe. In recent surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations and the Pulse Asia, Ms Macapagal had also taken the lead from Poe.

All treasury bill tenors were oversubscribed during the auction. Tenders for the 91-day securities reached P7.71 billion compared with the government's offering of only P3.5 billion, while tenders for the 182-day bills reached P4.84 billion against the offering of only P3 billion. For the 364-day debt paper, tenders reached P3.36 billion compared with the P2.25 billion accepted by the government.

The government raised the entire P3.5 billion and P3 billion in programmed volumes for three-month and six-month borrowings. However, it only partially raised the scheduled one-year borrowing after it accepted only P2.25 billion against the programmed P2.5 billion.

Figueroa predicted that the market would show the same appetite in tomorrow's auction for the 5-year treasury bonds as political uncertainties have somewhat waned with Ms Macapagal leading the surveys.

"The market is very liquid right now, and banks are expected to put in their money (in government securities), since it is their best option right now," Figueroa added.

RP economy remains 'weak spot' in Asia

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy is likely to expand at a faster rate of 4.8 percent this year from 4.5 percent last year, but the country is still among the "weak spots" in Asia, according to Standard Chartered Bank.

The British bank's projected growth for the Philippines, published in its Asian quarterly dated April, was its second-to-the-lowest GDP (gross domestic product) growth outlook among Asian countries after Indonesia's 4.5 percent.

The economic growth forecast given by the bank to the Philippines was likewise a hairline short of the government's official target of 4.9-5.8 percent.

On the other hand, Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand and Malaysia were expected by the bank to grow by a more robust 7 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Other developing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan were likewise seen to post higher growths of 5.5 percent, 6.8 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively.

"The Philippines stands out as the economy that has made relatively little progress in economic reform," said SCB's chief economist KC Kwok.

"Question marks over debt sustainability remained unaddressed and the presidential election

RP/ B2

INDICATORS

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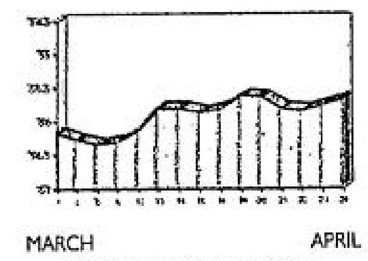

MARCH APRIL

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As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2004

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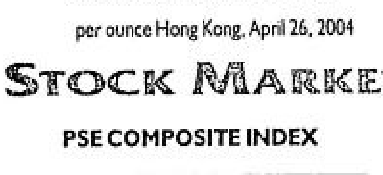
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower

STOCKS closed lower yesterday, led down by telecom issues PLDT and Globe Telecom, as investors took profits after the market's 3.3-percent rise last week.

"The market has already discounted that President Macapagal-Arroyo may likely emerge as the winner in the May elections," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

The main stock index fell 1.1 percent, or 17.50 points, to 1,571.90 points.

On Friday, the index jumped to a three-year high, boosted by a voter poll showing Ms Macapagal moving ahead just three weeks before the May 10 presidential polls.

Polling firm Social Weather Stations said the President had a lead of more than four points over film star Fernando Poe Jr. at 35.3 percent to his 30.8 percent.

Another survey commissioned by the Manila Standard showed Ms Macapagal, an economist, increasing her lead to more than 10 points with 36.9 percent support against Poe's 26.4 percent.

The newspaper said it commissioned the poll covering 1,200 respondents nationwide between April 20 and April 22.

Reuters

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By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy is likely to expand at a faster rate of 4.8 percent this year from 4.5 percent last year, but the country is still among the "weak spots" in Asia, according to Standard Chartered Bank.

The British bank's projected growth for the Philippines, published in its Asian quarterly dated April, was its second-to-the-lowest GDP (gross domestic product) growth outlook among Asian countries after Indonesia's 4.5 percent.

The economic growth forecast given by the bank to the Philippines was likewise a hairline short of the government's official target of 4.9-5.8 percent.

On the other hand, Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand and Malaysia were expected by the bank to grow by a more robust 7 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

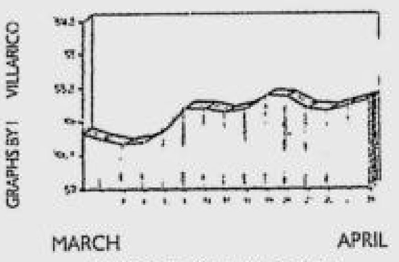
Other developing countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan were likewise seen to post higher growths of 5.5 percent, 6.8 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively.

"The Philippines stands out as the economy that has made relatively little progress in economic reform," said SCB's chief economist KC Kwok.

"Question marks over debt sustainability remained unaddressed and the presidential election

RP B2

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.67 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2004

¥ 109.02 = $ 1

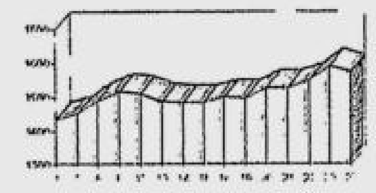
As of 5 p.m., April 26, 2004

GOLD: $ 393.70-394.20

per ounce Hong Kong, April 26, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower

STOCKS closed lower yesterday, led down by telecom issues PLDT and Globe Telecom, as investors took profits after the market's 3.3-percent rise last week

"The market has already discounted that President Macapagal-Arroyo may likely emerge as the winner in the May elections," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc

The main stock index fell 1.1 percent, or 17.50 points, to 1,571 90 points

On Friday, the index jumped to a three-year high, boosted by a voter poll showing Ms Macapagal moving ahead just three weeks before the May 10 presidential polls.

Polling firm Social Weather Stations said the President had a lead of more than four points over film star Fernando Poe Jr. at 35.3 percent to his 30 8 percent.

Another survey commissioned by the Manila Standard showed Ms Macapagal, an economist, increasing her lead to more than 10 points with 36 9 percent support against Poe's 26.4 percent.

The newspaper said it commissioned the poll covering 1,200 respondents nationwide between April 20 and April 22.

Reuters

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Lots to TEL about PLDT

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I SEEM to have a lot of trouble with taxi drivers. I asked one to take me to Rockwell and he went to Wack-Wack. Next day, I was careful to pronounce ROCKWELL in Tagalog, rolling my R's, but I ended up in Glorietta. I cannot see how anyone can confuse the two but I resolved to call the mall by its proper name, POWER PLANT. Guess what, I ended up in Farmer's Garden.

Have you heard about the 5 young bulls, discussing what they wanted to be when they grew up? The first wanted to go to Rome and become a papal bull. The second wanted to go to New York and become a bull on Wall Street. The third wanted to go to Windy City and become a Chicago bull. The fourth decided to go to Beijing and become a bull in a China shop. The fifth said he would stay in the pasture for heifer and heifer.

* * *

THE POPE was finishing his sermon with the Latin phrase, Tuti Hominous (Blessed be mankind). Next day, a women's rights group approached him and complained that he did not include women. The Pope thought this to be reasonable so next day, he concluded his sermon with Tuti Hominous et Tuti Feminous. (Blessed be mankind and womankind).

The following day a gay couple who had just gotten married in Los Angeles said, "We have been accepted in most countries. Can you not bless us also?" Being a kind-hearted Pope, he agreed, and next day concluded his sermon with Tuti Homenous, Tuti Feminous et Tuti Fruity.

* * *

FRED and George were talking one day about their forthcoming vacation. Fred turned to George and said, "Three years ago, you told me to go to the Bahamas and Ellen got pregnant. Two years ago, I followed your advice and went to Hawaii but Ellen still got pregnant. Last year, you suggested Tahiti and darn me if Ellen didn't get pregnant again."

"So what are you going to do this year?"

"I'm taking Ellen with me."

* * *

THE MAJOR event of the week was undoubtedly the analyst briefing of PLDT on Thursday afternoon. It was originally scheduled at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, but so great were the number of people attending that it had to be changed to Makati Shangri-La Hotel so I was unable to make it. However, I spoke to several analysts and the forecast of P11.2 billion was well received. It was about P1 billion higher than most analysts were projecting but was in line with the P11-billion forecast by our research department.

For this year, 2004, Mr. Panganilan projected P18 billion but this seems conservative, given that the company wrote off P4.1 billion in respect of Home Cable and other investments. In addition, PLDT paid substantial severance compensation to the one-sixth of the workforce which was laid-off as part of an efficiency drive. Last year, PILTEL lost another P3.3 billion, but this year should make a profit of P400 million. I believe that profits will be closer to P20 billion unless there are further write-offs. Earnings per share are P55.70 so the P/E ratio is 17.5.

The company stated that SMART would not be going public in August as the SEC requested, but would wait until 2006 or possibly 2007. There is a conflict of interest between TEL and the SEC because the Stock Exchange desperately needs large companies with good growth prospects plus liquidity to attract foreign investors. At present, there are relatively few companies that meet these requirements and TEL, also quoted in New York, is by far the most heavily traded stock. Sometimes, it trades P500 million and accounts for 40 percent of turnover.

If SMART were to list, there would be massive switching from TEL to SMART, since that is where all the growth comes from, but there would be an extra stock to attract desperately needed foreign funds. At present, TEL gets large dividends from SMART, 70 percent of its net profit, and for 2003, it received P16 billion. In 2004, 2005 and 2006, it expects ever-increasing dividends, which will help reduce its substantial dollar debt, a big liability when the peso keeps hitting new lows.

So, TEL is in no hurry to part with 30 percent of SMART. This would be expected to bring in $600 million based on current profits but if these are going to expand for another 3 years, as the company seems to think, then by delaying the IPO, the stake should produce a higher price. This, together with future dividends, would go a long way to wiping out TEL's dollar exposure and enable the core business to become profitable. So the company is in no hurry to comply.

An interesting question is when SMART should go public. If both TEL and GLOBE see another 3 years expansion before saturation occurs, then it would be better for SMART to have an IPO in 2006 because it could still forecast a further increase in subscribers. It would therefore still be a growth stock and command a reasonable P/E ratio. If it waits until it reaches a plateau, it would be rated as an income stock with a lower P/E rating. Of course, the telecom companies may be able to push the saturation date back further.

One question, which was answered, was that PILTEL is not to be used as the backdoor listing vehicle for SMART. Last Tuesday, when the shares rose to P1.84, I wrote in my newsletter that the degree of risk had reached 98.5 and that the situation looked dangerous, my exact words. Within 2 days, the shares had fallen to P1.32.

Despite the fact that the directors have stated categorically that PILTEL will not be used for backdoor listing, I expect frequent run-ups in the stock as rumors circulate again. A good trading stock. Incidentally, there was virtually no foreign interest, just the local brokers trying to outwit each other. Obviously, it makes sense for SMART to use PILTEL's huge tax losses provided some arrangement can be worked out. Otherwise, it will take PILTEL a very long time to become equity positive.

The other interesting stock was SMPH. It has been just about the worst performing blue chip over the past month, never participating in market rallies. Almost every foreign broker has been selling it and it fell back to its P5.90 support level.

On Thursday morning, there were 9 million sellers at P5.90 and there was a cross sale of 112 million shares by REGIS. I reckoned this was the end of the selling but first trade on Friday morning, REGIS crossed another 42 million shares. This seemed to clear the air and there was no sign of the remaining 7 million sellers at the previous close. Instead, there were 4 million buyers at P6 and only few sellers at P6.10. The results are due next month so hopefully the shares will rise, but there is strong overhead resistance at P6.50.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

SM property unit lists middle-income projects

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RESIDENTIAL property developer SM Development Corp. has lined up property projects this year mainly for the middle income market.

SMDC president Rogelio Cabuñag said the company has also started selling its residential condominium project in Bicutan, Parañaque, dubbed "Chateau Elysee." The eight cluster, six-storey project will cater to the middle income market and may generate at least P300 million initially, in sales for the company, SMDC vice chair Henry Sy Jr. estimated.

The cost of the first phase, consisting of 384 units, is estimated at P200-P250 million.

SMDC, through its 85.5-percent-owned subsidiary SM Synergy Properties Holdings Corp., launched Chateau Elysee last year.

Other projects lined up for 2004 include a residential condominium in Makati and a co-development project covering a 100-hectare property in Susana Heights in Muntinlupa City. SMDC has tied up with landowner Intercontinental Development Corp.

Lot sizes for Susana Heights range between 180 and 250 square meters.

SMDC is also planning a mid-scale residential condominium called Makati Faraday on a 2,174-sq.m. lot on Dian corner Faraday streets along Buendia Ave. The high-rise building will offer one- and two-bedroom units.

Revenues for the company grew 26.3 percent to P410.1 million last year due to trading gains, interest income and dividends. Net profit rose 16.8 percent to P361.3 million from P310 million last year.

Total consolidated assets rose by 7.1 percent to P5.26 billion while total debts stood at P206 million.

RP . . .

From page B1

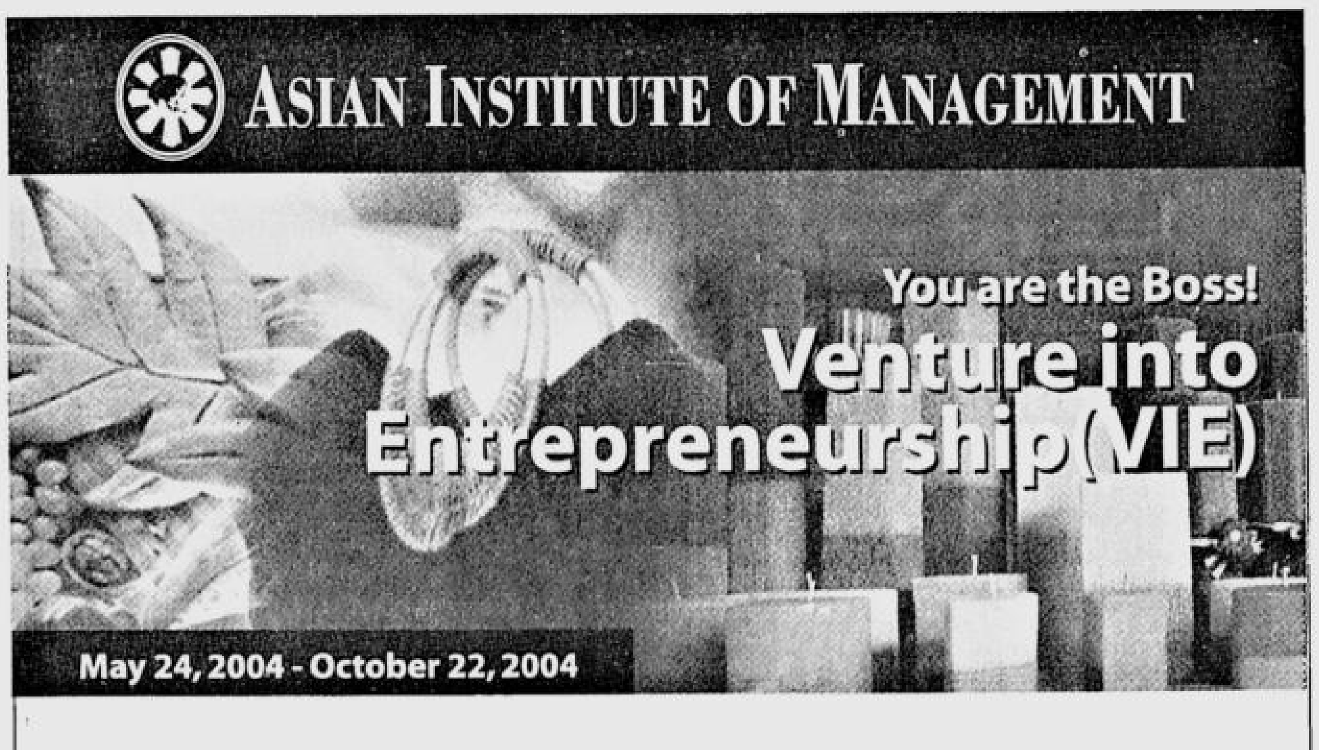
in May has introduced new uncertainties," Kwok said.

By next year, the bank projected that the Philippines' GDP growth would slow down to 4.5 percent.

SCB said that politically induced uncertainties would make defensive monetary tightening a genuine risk despite a benign inflation outlook.

It projected the country's inflation rate would average higher at 3.8 percent this year and further to 4.5 percent next year.

In the chapter on the Philippines, SCB regional economist Mike Moran warned that should the country's export and overall growth turn out disappointing, "the vicious cycle of worsening budget deficits, falling foreign exchange receipts and rising yields could be difficult to stabilize."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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 26, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.25	17	17.25	64,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	46.5	46.5	87,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	20
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41	41	41	10,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.75	25.5	24.75	25	115,400
Philippine National Bank	23	23	23	23	15,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	58,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	3,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2145	2145	2145	2145	590
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	131	131	131	131	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1495	1500	1495	1500	1,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	2,710,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	935	940	905	915	61,230
Ipeople Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.14	20,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.55	2.7	52.5	52.75	18,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.76	1.8	36,924,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	15,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1160	1160	1135	1135	38,700
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	216,800
Manila Electric Co. B	30	31	30	31	971,700
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	3,259,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.1	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.99	0.95	0.99	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	110,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.68	214,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
ALASKA MILK CORP.	3	3	3	3	7,000
JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	247,000
RFM Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	58.5	59	129,100
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	74.5	74	74.5	62,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	622,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	378,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.94	0.94	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	19,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	6,770,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	310,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25.5	26	25	26	530,600
Ionics Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	21,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	2,383,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	6,350,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	70,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	2,400
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	60,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.12	7,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	250,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.3	0.39	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	23.75	24	665,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	12,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	2,291,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.14	0.15	3,800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.135	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	4,750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	4,038,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	390,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	129,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.245	0.27	3,930,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	1,650,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	580,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	3,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	360,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

BASIC Consolidated Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 3 p.m. at Manila Elks Club, 7/F, Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Vill., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of April 27 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

MAKATI Finace Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10, 4 p.m. at 6/F Oakwood Premiere, Ayala Centre, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 11 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 29, 2 p.m. at the Diamond Ballroom, Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd., cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila.

* * *

PCI Leasing & Finance, Inc. purchased 484,000 of its own shares at P1.32 per share on April 23 pursuant to its shares buy-back program.

* * *

FIL-HISPANO Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 2 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club, Alfaro St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City. Record date is May 7.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands disclosed that its 20% stock dividend approved by BSP will be distributable on or before June 1.

* * *

SOUTH China Resources Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to May 31 at 2 p.m.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. disclosed the company's change of name to Aboitiz Transport System Corp., and the change of principal place of business to "Metropolitan Manila."

* * *

SEAFRONT Resources Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 2:30 p.m. at rooms 505-506 YIAS, Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenues, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 7 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

April 26, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.844238075	1.000000	55.7470
Japan	Yen	0.007751	0.009181	0.5118
United Kingdom	Pound	1.497087	1.773300	98.8562
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108246	0.128217	7.1477
Switzerland	Franc	0.642104	0.760572	42.3996
Canada	Dollar	0.620307	0.734754	40.9603
Singapore	Dollar	0.498517	0.590493	32.9182
Australia	Dollar	0.614796	0.728226	40.5964
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.239477	2.652661	147.8779
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225125	0.266660	14.8655
Brunei	Dollar	0.497049	0.588755	32.8213
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021346	0.025284	1.4095
UAE	Dirham	0.229856	0.272264	15.1779
Euro	Euro	1	1.184500	66.0323
Argentina	Peso	0.295965	0.350570	19.5432
Brazil	REAL	0.289917	0.343407	19.1439
Denmark	Kroner	0.134403	0.159200	8.8749
India	Rupee	0.019179	0.022717	1.2664
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222198	0.263193	14.6722
Mexico	New Peso	0.074546	0.088300	4.9225
New Zealand	Dollar	0.527484	0.624805	34.8310
Norway	Kroner	0.121179	0.143536	8.0017
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014729	0.017446	0.9726
South Africa	Rand	0.125329	0.148452	8.2758
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000864	0.0482
Sweden	Kroner	0.109356	0.129532	7.2210
Syria	Pound	0.016329	0.019342	1.0783
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025637	0.030367	1.6929
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000441	0.000522	0.0291

Developing countries urge to be heard in WB, IMF

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE and monetary officials of developing countries, including the Philippines, again are pressing for better representation in the decision-making of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

They said the meager participation of developing countries in the crafting of IMF and World Bank policies is a serious concern that affects the legitimacy of the world's two biggest lenders.

The call was made during the 71st Meeting of the Ministers by the G-24 held last week in Washington D.C. The G-24 is a group composed of finance and central bank officials from 24 developing countries. The group's common aim is to reduce poverty.

The officials said that the number of votes developing countries are allowed must be increased to match their level of vulnerability to the economic impact of decisions made by the IMF and the World Bank.

The G-24 said the issue of underrepresentation should be immediately addressed as agreed during the previous Monterrey Consensus.

"Ministers call for the completion of work on these issues by 2006," according to a communique the officials released yesterday.

The concern raised by finance and monetary officials came after critics slammed the IMF and the World Bank. The two institutions are set to mark their 60th anniversary this year.

According to critics, the IMF and the World Bank have not fulfilled its mandate of alleviating severe poverty 60 years after they were established. They claimed several countries were made even poorer after the two institutions imposed tough lending rules.

But the IMF and the World Bank said they were instrumental in bringing about significant improvements in various aspects of the world economy—such as trade liberalization, education, standard of living.

Also, members of the G-24 want the IMF to encourage investments in infrastructure. They agreed that improvements in infrastructure are vital to the growth and competitiveness of developing countries.

The officials, including Philippine Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, also called on the IMF and the World Bank to grant developing countries more access to lending facilities, and to resume stalled talks in the World Trade Organization.

Amatong, who represented the Philippine during the meeting, was elected second vice chair of the G-24.

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3 Months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%
6 Months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%
12 Months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%

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500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
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RP mangoes off to US after delay in shipment

By Christine A. Gaylican

FRESH Philippine mangoes are now off to the United States after Department of Agriculture officials have ironed out the "kinks" causing the delay in shipment, according to Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo.

The Philippine Mango Exporters Federation, led by the firm Marsman-Drysdale, earlier expressed reluctance to ship their products to the US because the DA allegedly had not given its share in the payment of inspection fees which the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) required.

The USDA requires $51,170 in inspection fee to carry out quarantine procedures.

Lorenzo said the government was able to raise the money to bring in the USDA inspectors.

"It is now all systems go," for the export of fresh mangoes to the US, Lorenzo said. "Despite an initial setback, we are confident we can catch up with demand and, hopefully, be able to exceed our past export volumes."

The Philippines may only export fresh mangoes to the United States between the months of April and June because of strict quarantine procedures. The Americans only allowed the shipment of mangoes from Guimaras Islands in the Visayas.

The DA chief said the Philippines hopes to exceed the export volume of 217,729 kilograms set last year, citing growth in demand from the Filipino community in the United States.

Aside from the US, the Philippines has been exporting fresh mangoes to Japan, South Korea, Belgium and parts of Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Major exporters are DHM Philippine Produce Co., Diamond Star of Davao, Marsman-Drysdale, and Hi-las Marketing.

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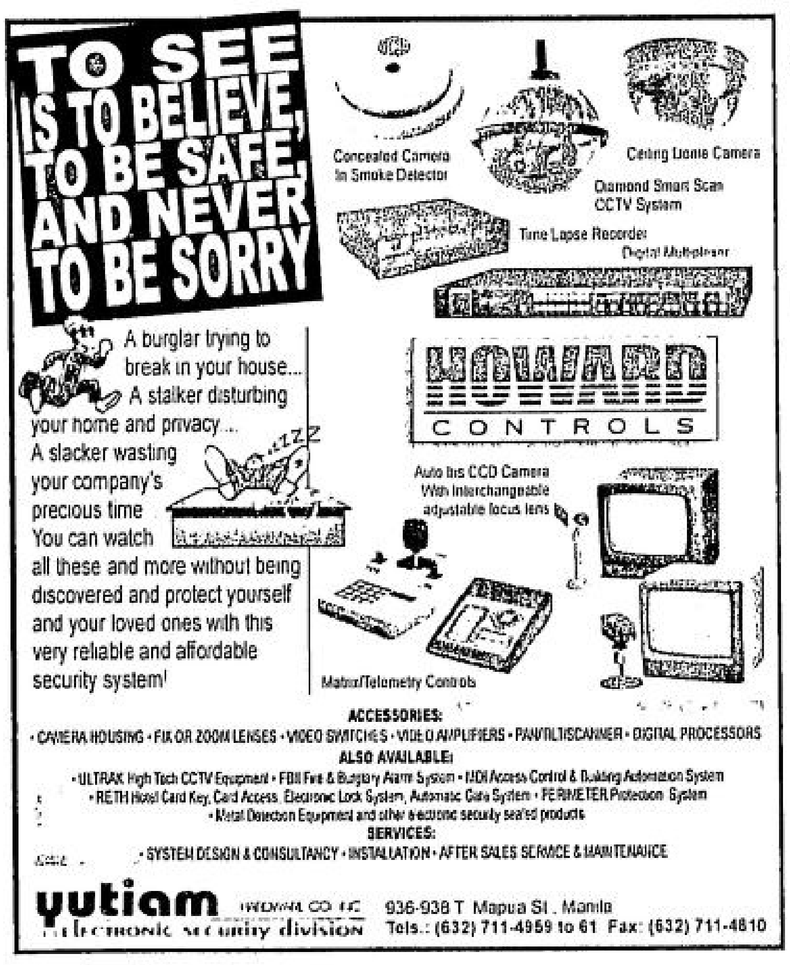

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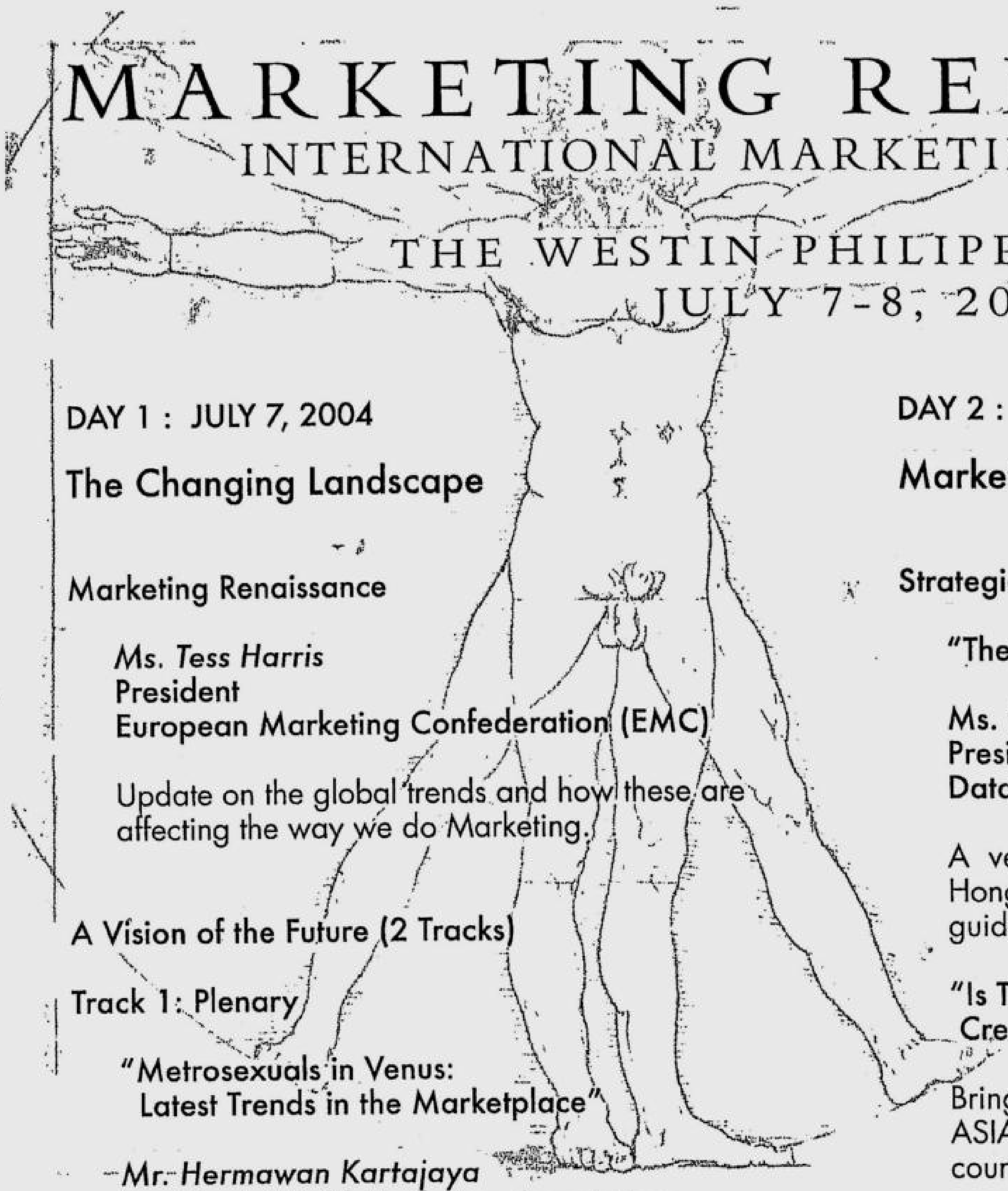

MARKETING RENAISSANCE

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JULY 7-8, 2004

DAY 1 : JULY 7, 2004

The Changing Landscape

Marketing Renaissance

Ms. Tess Harris
President
European Marketing Confederation (EMC)

Update on the global trends and how these are affecting the way we do Marketing.

A Vision of the Future (2 Tracks)

Track 1: Plenary

"Metrosexuals in Venus:
Latest Trends in the Marketplace"

Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya
President, World Marketing Association
President, MarkPlus Co., Indonesia

A peek into the new power blocs of consumers and how Marketing can cope.

"The Road to Change, Development and Sustainable Growth"

The pathways toward meaningful change, strategic development and sustainable growth through innovative / creative Marketing.

Session A: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Anastacio Martirez
Head, Personal Communications & Mobile Services
SMART Communications

Session B: HEALTHCARE RETAIL

Mr. Rolando P. Gosiengfiao
Chairman
Healthway Philippines

Track 2: CPM Conference
Exclusively for Certified Professional Marketers

DAY 2 : JULY 8, 2004

Marketing as Change Master

Strategies for Multi- Country Marketing

"The Growing Modern Trade Profit in Asia"

Ms. Terry Montgomery
President & CEO
Data Ventures LLC, Charlotte, NC

A veteran marketer in China, Thailand and Hongkong, the speaker will talk about the essential guideposts when marketing in China.

"Is There an ASIAN Market?
Creating the Tools for Multi-Country Marketing"

Bringing a successful Marketing model into other ASIAN territories and creating the tools for Multi-country Marketing.

Session A: PHARMACEUTICAL

Mr. Carlos Ejercito
President & COO
United Laboratories, Inc.

"Successes and Failures in International Expansion: What Lessons can be Learned?"

Mr. Bruce Hoggard
CEO, Hoggard International
President, Canada Institute of Marketing

Learn the 12 most important key success factors to consider in international expansion and the lessons to be learned.

Renaissance Companies

"Effective New Channels for Communication and Marketing"

Ms. Kim Walker
COO
CARAT Asia Pacific

Innovative and profit-driven Marketing channels that create competitive advantage and brand equity.

"Insights on Marketing: Toolboxes That Dominate the Market"

Insights on shifting consumer trends and the need to recreate and rethink Marketing to keep consumers loyal to pave the way for market dominance and leadership.

Session A: "Unconventional Marketing"

Dr. Hooi Den Huan
Associate Professor, Nanyang Business School
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Session B: PERSONAL CARE

Mr. Diosdado C. Salvador, Jr.
President
Johnson & Johnson ASEAN Group of Companies

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

For inquiries, please call the Secretariat, PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, Inc., at phone numbers: 634-4890, 634-5722 or 636-1451 or email pma@philonline.com.

Registration Rates		Members*	Non- Members
Early Bird Rates	(Mar 1 - Apr 31)	8,000.00	9,000.00
	(May 1 - May 31)	9,000.00	10,000.00
Regular Rate	(June 1 – July 6)	10,000.00	11,000.00
On – site		12,000.00	13,000.00

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Yes, that's only P614. And if you're thinking that you're going to waste a day for the transfers, think again. Half a day, and not a moment that you would regret. Envision the fun of a joyride and beyond. This integrated means of transportation allows you to experience the wonderful sights of our island, with fellow adventurous travellers.

Once aboard the M/V Maharlika Siete, indulge yourself in entertainment and relaxation. ISM certified with fully trained professional crew, she ensures a stress free travel. Her size of 2,075 gross tons and 80 meters over-all length should assure you of her resistance to sea travails. Enjoy your sail in her fully airconditioned cabins or dine in her restaurant/saloon.

And to complete your experience of sheer indulgence, try M/V. Maharlika Siete's state of the art entertainment equipment. Decide whether you want to show off your belly-danced body or Regine-karaoked voice, or simply take pleasure in the diverse entertainment program.

Before you realize it, you are at Caticlan, where you'll have to take an exhilarating speedboat ride to Boracay islands. There are inexpensive rooms off the beach area than can be rented. Think of the distance as your warm up exercise. After all, you didn't go to Boracay to lock yourself in the room. You might even meet a couple of gorgeous beach bums who are on a tight budget too on your way to the beach.

Swim and party until its time to go home. Oh, you can keep the change too.

LAW OFFICE HOLDS APPRECIATION PARTY

Lawyer Ricardo PC Catro Jr (second from left), managing partner of Quisumbing Torres Law Office congratulates Saben Loyola, a third placer in the 2003 bar exams during an appreciation party held on April 16. Loyola, a product of San Beda College where he graduated cum laude and class valedictorian with Latin honors, is currently an associate of Quisumbing Torres Law Office, where he started as an apprentice and plans to specialize in corporate and commercial law. Lawyer Leo Dominguez (left) and lawyer Christopher Lim (right), both partners of the law office, were also present to greet Loyola.

a child and Fly FREE to Pilgrimage to
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RAFFLE DRAW
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WINNERS OF LWR RAFFLE PROMO

Shown are the winners of the Lourdes World Research (LWR) raffle promo 'Help a Child and Fly Free to Lourdes, France', Margie delos Santos, being congratulated by MJ Paz (left) president of LWR and Emelita Solidum, being congratulated by Msgr. Gabriel (right) of St. James Parish in Alabang and the pilgrimage spiritual tour guide that will go to Lourdes, France. They are scheduled to leave for Lourdes, France and Paris on April 30. Those who participated in the raffle as well as the devotees are encouraged to write their petition and prayers to Our Lady of Lourdes and send it to Lourdes World Research P.O. Box 2062, CPO 1000 Manila. The winners will offer the prayers and petition the the Blessed Grotto, Lourdes, France.

ProductFILES

New Jack 'n Jill Spuds BBQ

NOW, the similar, delectable taste of BBQ can be experienced in new Jack 'n Jill Spuds BBQ flavor. New Jack 'n Jill Spud's BBQ gives the delectable taste of smoked barbecue in a potato snack. It is packed in a re-sealable canister that keeps that fresh, crispy, and flavorful crunch down to the very last bite. The new BBQ flavor is the latest addition to the delicious line up of Spuds that snackers have grown to love. It is available in the regular 205 grams can and the junior 64 grams can for a single snack serving, and are in major supermarkets nationwide.

Clips

AutoSkill seminar

PHILIPPINE schools and students with reading and math difficulties are sure to benefit from the AutoSkill Seminar on the Academy of Reading and Academy of Math today at the Conference Room of the Rockwell Center in Makati City. Tailored for schoolchildren from kindergarten to 4th year high school, the Academy of Reading is also ideal for disabled and gifted children as well as reading-delayed adults. Interested parties may call Gemini IT Consulting Corporation at 533-9316 and 531-2547 for more information.

Leonardo Bags promo

ANYONE who makes a minimum purchase of P300 of Leonardo Bags at SM Department Stores nationwide will have a chance to win a family breakaway trip for five to Club Panoly in Boracay with three days and two nights hotel accommodation, food and drinks, P5,000 pocket money, round trip airfare tickets and boat transfer. Also, a family breakaway trip for five in Hotel Dominique in Tagaytay with three days and two nights hotel accommodation, food and drinks, P3,000 pocket money. Leonardo exhibit booths are located at SM Sta. Mesa until April 27, SM Fairview (April 29 to May 12), and SM Southmall (May 13 to May 26).

Spiritual-effluent lifestyle

FOR THIRTY years, this movement has been successfully enriching the lives of generations of Filipinos towards an opulent lifestyle. It has inspired excellence, thus, brings man to his pinnacle of health, wealth, success or self-expression and love relationships. For future schedules of the seminars and more information, contact Science of the Mind and Man Center (Somm) located at the 3rd floor, Gold Condominium, 15 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Its contact numbers are 721-3355; 721-3357 and 721-1407, fax: 721-3359.

High 5... Riverbanks Center

RIVERBANKS Center in Marikina City is celebrating its 5th anniversary this April. Expect a lot of fun-filled activities for the whole family to enjoy this entire month. The "Beat the Heat" summer fair is slated on April 27, also scheduled is "Here Comes the Bride" trade fair from April 28 to May 9.

CAC to be organized

THE CAGAYAN Artists Circle (Tuguegarao Chapter) will be formally organized this April 28. All artists residing in Cagayan (painters, sculptors, architects, literary men, actors, dancers, musicians, filmmakers, etc.) will form the organization that will work on the cultural preservation, development and enhancement of the Ibanag identity. Watch for details from the office of the City Mayor and the Provincial Governor. Meanwhile, the organization of the CAC (Manila Chapter) is underway. For inquiries, call 0927-5511700.

PSM holds confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society for Microbiology Inc (PSM) will holds its 33rd Annual Convention and Science Meeting on April 28 to 30, at The Heritage Hotel Manila. Led by PSM president Rhodora Carlos, this year's theme is "Microbiology and Biotechnology: Evolving Trends and Times."

Western Bicutan National High School

VASELINE AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE 2004

For two years now, Unilever Philippines makers of Vaseline Shampoo has been constantly recognizing the effort and commitment of the Filipino youth in achieving the highest academic recognition in spite of the country's present economic condition. For school year 2003-2004, more than 500 graduating students of the biggest high schools in Metro Manila received the recognition. Shown are the graduating honor students of Western Bicutan High School. The award was made possible by Ad Staunch Communication Network with the support of Compass Internet and The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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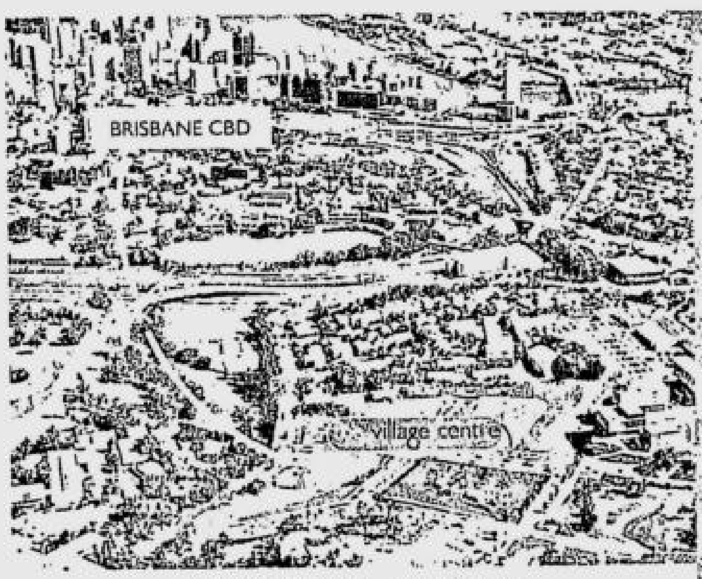

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the village centre

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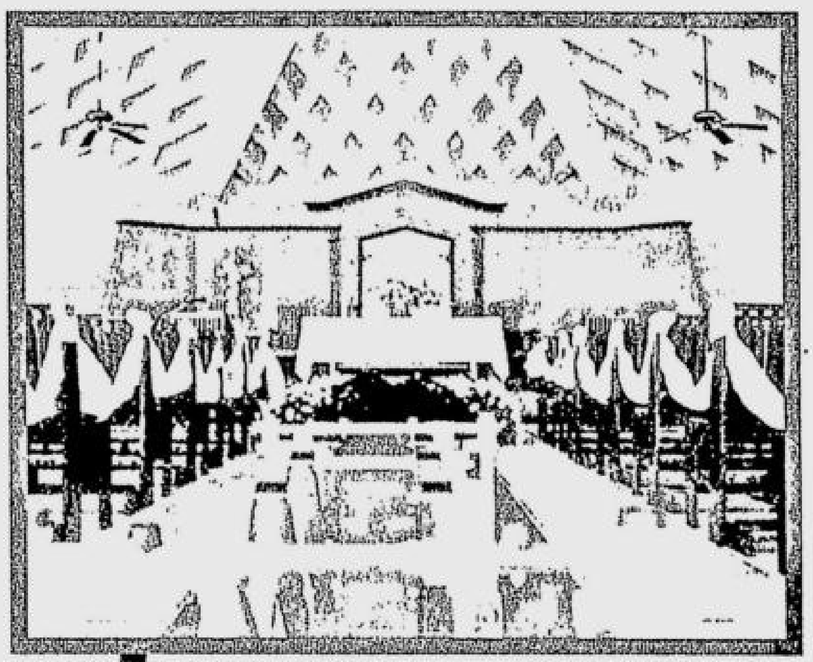
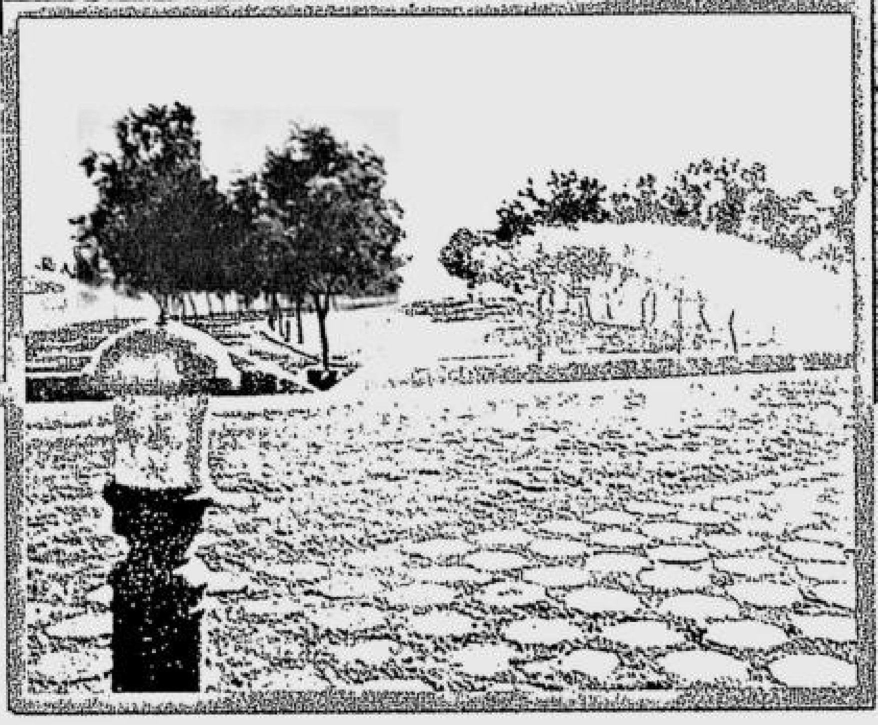
By Raquel P. Gomez



THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO TAGUIG



The Heritage Park is a multiuse memorial park complex that has modern interment facilities and services. A refreshing park, it has esthetic landmarks and structures such as lagoon for fishing, lots of trees and decorative lampposts on green lawns and gardens.

THE sad, heavy and clinical atmosphere associated with mortuary and crematory facilities is now a thing of the past with the formal opening today of The Heritage Park Mortuary and Crematory, the first facility to consider the needs of a bereaving family during a wake or an internment.

The 3,200 square meter facility possesses harmonious design, architecture and interiors, which convey the atmosphere of serenity and warmth, a much-needed comfort for the family who lost a loved one.

There are ten air-conditioned viewing chapels, each can be joined with another to form a bigger chapel to accommodate more people. The chapel is spacious, the floor shiny with lacquered wood finish, the walls and the ceilings have intricate bamboo patterns, and several unobtrusive pin lights illuminate the room. Each chapel has a family room which offers amenities such as TV, ref, sofa and cushions.

Outside the chapel is a wide patio with chairs and tables and beyond is a landscaped garden with a small pond, a wooden bridge and a children's playground.

A welcome to stay

There's also a coffeeshop and the entrance of the mortuary looks like the reception of a resort.

Aside from eye-pleasing interiors and surroundings, the mortuary and crematory is designed in such a way to somehow make the family's stay an "enjoyable" one, according to Jack Kidwiler, chairman and CEO of Rosehills Memorial Management (Phils.) Inc, the company running The Heritage Park.

"It's never fun or an enjoyable experience when a family member passes away," said Kidwiler. "But we try to make the experience as less painful as possible."

"The facility has the openness, the family is welcome to stay. There are food services for them and for their guests. The children have other fun activities to do. The people can take a walk here. This is our interpretation of a more relaxing stay (in a mortuary). And I think it's the only one like that in the Philippines."

With the opening of the Mortuary and Crematorium, the Heritage Park is now a complete "one-stop shop" for all funeral or interment needs.

A Perpetual Care Park

At the Heritage Park, a family's interment's needs are fully taken care of. Counselors assist a family in private with regard to the final arrangements, from date and location of service, selection of memorialization products and interment services.

The family can choose the flowers, cards, casket or urn, tomb labels, food for the guests during the wake, procession procedure either by horse-drawn carriage or car, and the interment spot inside the park's sprawling green grounds.

Even after the internment is done and the family's obligation finished, the family need not worry about the upkeep and maintenance of the memorial lot. The Heritage Park is the only memorial park in the country with a Perpetual Care Fund that assures the long-term maintenance, upkeep, care and continued enhancement of the park.

Development at the Heritage Park, which opened three years ago, is 90 percent complete. Two churches, one a Catholic Church and another denominational church will soon start construction. The design of the structures and parts of the park was made by Minnie Roselle.

Modern

Occupying a 76-ha of land along the C-5 and Bayani Road inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, The Heritage Park is a master-planned, high-value multiuse memorial park complex that has modern interment facilities and services. It has esthetic landmarks and structures such as lagoon for fishing. Trees abound as well as decorative lampposts on the green lawns and gardens. The place is truly refreshing for a memorial park that people go here to jog in the mornings.

Several events and activities also happen inside the park's premises. Film screenings, mini concerts or other exciting activities such

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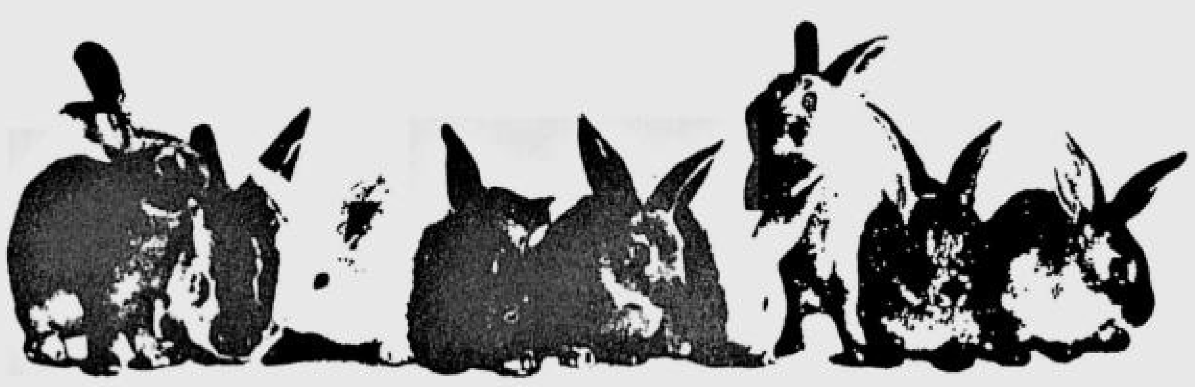


The best place for remembrance on earth

From page B6

as Easter egg hunts are done here during marked calendar occasions or festivities.

The Heritage Park has also been active in hosting the annual meeting of the Philippine Mortuary Association and through these meetings seminars and trainings are held to benefit the local mortuary industry.

"We want to continue doing that and it's will help in raising the standard in the industry," said Kidwiler. "It's bringing a lot of technology and making the products accessible to the industry."

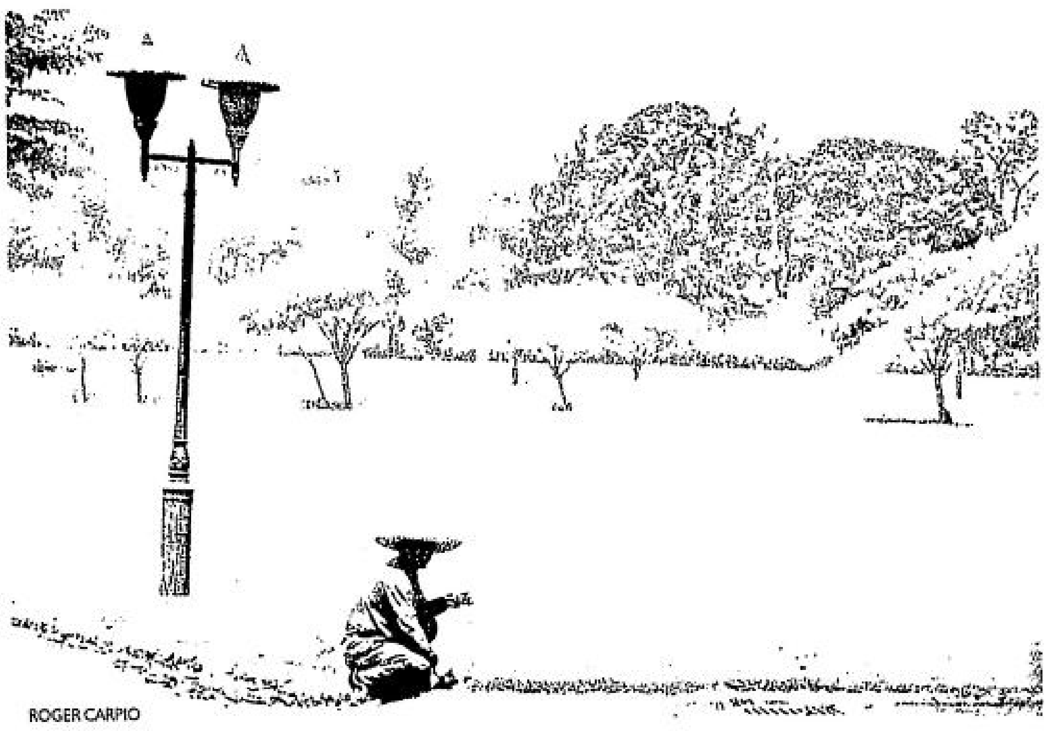
The Heritage Park is operated and managed by Rosehills Memorial Management Inc., a local affiliate of a leading US-based cemetery and mortuary company. RMMI is a partner of Service Corp. International, the largest consolidator of mortuaries and cemeteries in the world and is based in Houston. Under SCI there are 15,000 mortuaries and 7,000 cemeteries around the world.

Henry Kwong, managing director for Asia operations, represents SCI at the Heritage Park.

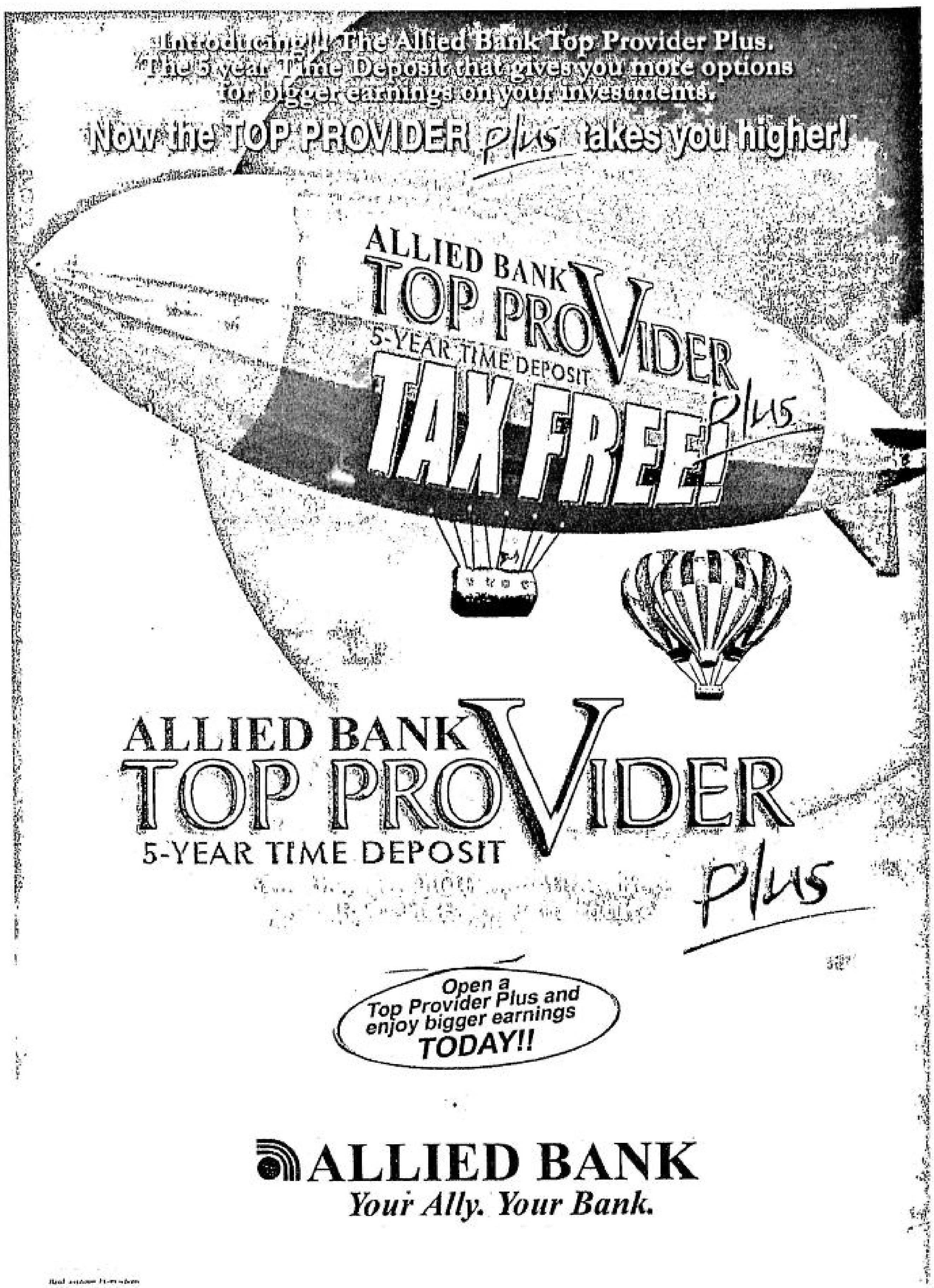
One of the directors of the Mortuary and Crematory, Jeff Kidwiler, was recently elected as director of the International Cemeteries and Funeral Association (ICFA), a widely known association of funeral directors, owners, and cemeteries.

Jack Kidwiler ROGER CARPIO

Jeff Kidwiler and Henry Kwong will take part in the grand opening of The Heritage Park Mortuary and Crematory scheduled today. Both will manage the operations of the mortuary on a regular basis.



ROGER CARPIO



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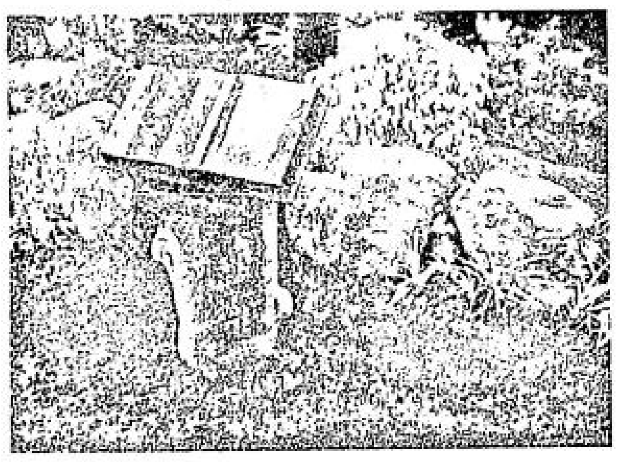
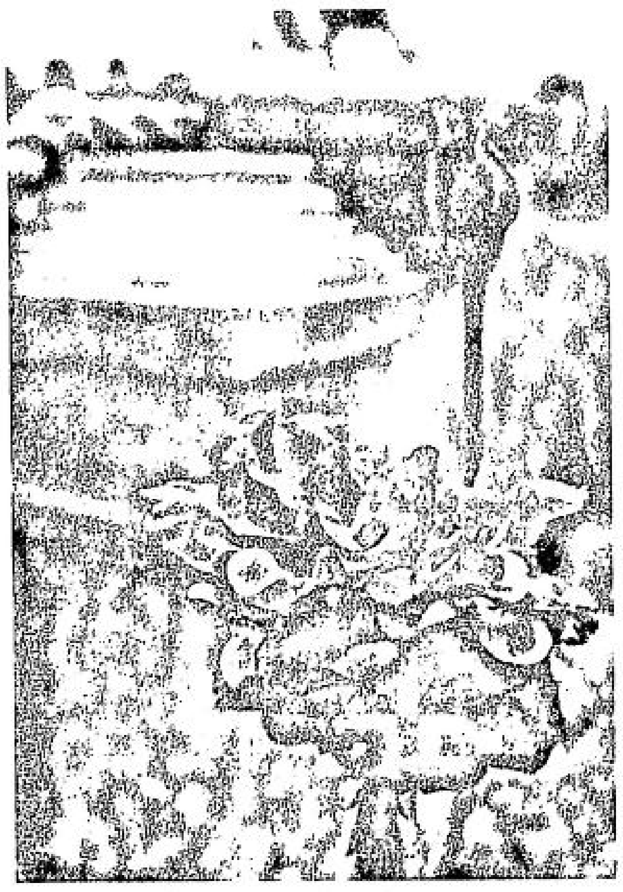
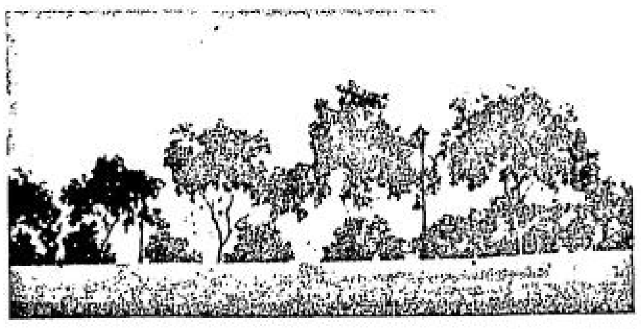
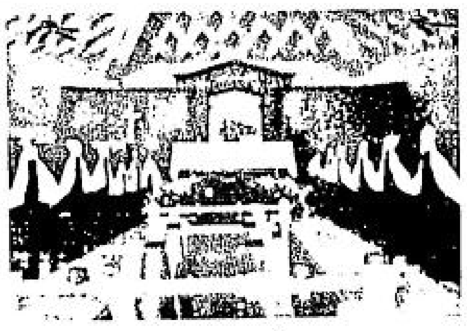




THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO-TAGUIG





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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Univ. of East Cert. Nos. 5311, 6880, 7734, 8700, 9800, 10959, all in the name of Victor A. Arches (17 shares), Cert Nos. 5310, 6879, 7733, 8699, 9799, 10958, all in the name of Minda N. Arches (17 shares) and Cert. Nos. 5330, 6064, 6212, 6881, 7735, 8701, 9801, 10960, 12073, 12754, 13605, all in the name of Victor A. Arches and/or Minda N. Arches (67 shares). Should no one contest after one year, new certificates will be issued.
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E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the PDIC Health Maintenance Program and Audit of 30 Closed Banks. Relevant information and schedule of events are presented below. All activities shall be conducted at the Bidding Room, 9th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City.

1. PDIC Health Maintenance Program

Estimated Number of Employees	855
Approved Budget of the Contract	P6,558,000 for six (6) months coverage, July 1 to December 31, 2004
Minimum Requirements	Partnership and corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines whether 100% local or at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines Bidders must have at least five (5) years experience in the business and with at least ten (10) existing corporate clients
Issuance of Application for Eligibility	Starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Submission of the Eligibility Requirements	Until 2:00 p.m. May 13, 2004
Opening of Eligibility Envelopes and Issuance of Terms of Reference/ Instructions to Eligible Bidders	2:00 p.m., May 13, 2004
Prebid Conference	May 18, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for the submission of the Technical and Financial Proposals/Envelopes	Until 2:00 p.m. of May 31, 2004
Opening of the Technical and Financial Envelopes	2:00 p.m. May 31, 2004

2. Audit of 30 Closed Banks

Approved Budget of the Contract	P3,320,545.05 from the funds of the concerned closed banks
Minimum Requirements	Five (5) years experience in the audit of banks and other reputable companies With sufficient and qualified professional staff to undertake the review.
Availability of the Instruction to Bidders/Terms of Reference	Starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference	May 13, 2004, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	Until 2:00 p.m., May 25, 2004
Opening of Envelopes containing the Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	May 25, 2004, 2:00 p.m.

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders starting April 27, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City after payment of a non refundable amount of P300.00 per project.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on a non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

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CRUZCON – CRUZTELCO

deeply mourn the demise of its
Senior Consultant

Engr. Tomas R. Valencia

on April 23, 2004

We express our highest regard for his wonderful qualities and we feel grateful to the numerous contributions he made for our growth. Indeed, he is a great loss to us.

We offer him prayers and with him eternal peace and happiness. May there be no more sorrow on his way to his final resting place with our Lord Almighty.

Dr. Trinidad Casas Cuyegkeng

has gone home to beloved Alfonso in the House of the Lord
on 23 April 2004

We, **Margot** and **Baby Perez**, **Tony** and **Marietta Cuenco**, **Girlie** and **Art Nazareno**, **Maryann** and **Manny Dueñas**, **Francis** and **Cherrie Roxas**, **Regie** and **Eddie Lualhati**, **Maite** and **Danny Ibasco**, **Malu**, **Vicky** and **Dennis Huang**, **Topper** and **Debbie Coquia**, **Thomas** and sister **Carmen C. Manabat**, our children and grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for her etenal repose.

She lies in state at the Santuario de San Antonio. Interment will be on 29 April 2004 at the Biñan Municipal Cemetery following the 9:00 AM Mass at the Santuario.

In lieu of flowers, donations in the name of Friends of Dr. Trinidad Casas Cuyegkeng for her favorite charities will be appreciate.

NENEITTE U. FUNDALES

of Davao City and Quezon City
Peacefully joined our Lord on April 25, 2004 at the age of 79.

Her loving children Almira and Lenn, Bernadette and Carlito, and Ferdinand; grandchildren Peggy, Meena, Roy, Aimee, Carlo, Francis, Jorick and Alodia; great grandchild Gabriel and loving sisters and brother request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Davao City. Mass of the Resurrection will be held on Friday, April 30th, 2004 at Assumption Church, F. Torres Street, Davao City at 8:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Davao Memorial Park.

DEATH NOTICE

DONATO G. AGUSTIN

Died in the grace of our Lord on April 22, 2004 at the age of 83.

His remains lie in state at 319 P. Casal St. Quiapo, Manila.

Interment will be held at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on April 27, 2004 at 10:0 a.m.

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"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
Matthew 10:39

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE DIES, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE." ***JOHN 11:25-26***

Our Beloved

FELICIANO LINQUICO BARTOLOME

PEACEFULLY JOINED OUR CREATOR
ON April 24, 2004 at the AGE of 81.

He is survived by his wife **FORTUNATA**; his children **EFREN** and **BABY**, **ATTY. PING** and **AMY**, **ZENY** and **CHUCK**, **DANTE** and **ANNABELLE**, **ROMBAR** and **AYMIE**, **RICO** and **CAROL**, **SUSAN** and **DANNY**; GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

His remains lie in his residence at
79 DULONG BAYAN CITY
OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at the Holy Garden Eternal Park, City of San Jose Del Monte after the 2 p.m. Mass at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

EMILIO G. CHUATICO, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 25, 2004 at the age of 74.

His wife **Suiding**
His children
Nes & Chao
Paul & Carla
Nonoy
Bibo & Gia
And his grandchildren
Isa, Ramona, Amanda, Sarah,
Dani, Quita, Yena,
Mikee & Bea

Enjoin the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at Sampalok Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on April 30, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the celebration of the Holy Eucharistic Mass at 2:00 p.m.

TERESITA BONDOC VALERIO

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 25, 2004 at the age of 65.

Her bereaved husband **Vivencio Valerio**; children **Jun & Ping, Ela & Scott, Rina & Obet, Randy & Liza**; grandchildren **Jhon-Jhon, Ina, Mico, Cristina, Rafael** and **Angela**; sister **Antonia**; nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Cremation and inurnment will follow the 9:00 A.M. Mass on April 30, 2004.

DOLORES VALDEZ-DOMINGO

of North Fairview, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 25, 2004 at the age of 74.

Her husband **Erotido O. Domingo**; brother **Sebastian**; brothers-in-law **Policronio, Panfilo** and **Honorato**; sisters-in-law **Elena** and **Persoveranda**, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at chapel Q of the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

Cremation will be on Friday, April 30, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

"One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek; to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life..." Psalm 27:4

DOMICIANO V. LICUDINE

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 23, 2004 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Esperanza**; children **Pelgie, Elvie, Gerry, Nicky, Liza, Mel**, other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

Interment will be on April 29, 2004 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park at 2:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Blessed Sacrament Church.

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE SCRAP/JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: May 18 and 19, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms, Bldg.-1 Ground Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road, corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items:

Schedule-I, May 18, 2004, 2:00 PM Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of scrap metals consisting of 1-unit Terex Payloader, 1 unit Clark Forklift, 1 unit Bulldozer, 1-unit moveable centrifuge, 1-unit lube oil heater, 1-set turbine casing, 3-units turbine rotors, one (1) lot assorted scrap metals and one (1) lot unserviceable GPE located at Cebu Power Plant Complex, Naga, Cebu.	P 586,500.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot scrap metals consisting of pipes, plant parts, steel plate cuttings, steel frames, radiators, aluminum cladding, 300 pcs. used tires, 76 pcs. used batteries and other scrap items located at the Tongonan GPP	P 336,800.00/lot
3.	Waste Lube Oil, approximately 80 drums, net of water and drums not included located at Tongonan GPP, Leyte	P 300.00/drum

Schedule-II, May 19, 2004, 2:00 PM, Solarium Multi-Purpose Rooms

1.	One (1) lot unserviceable condenser tubes, 865 pcs.located at Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant, Calaca, Batangas	P 351,840.00/lot
		P 196,000.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot structural Steel and junk items at the 2nd floor level of the Blaisdell Bldg. (to be dismantled and clean-up basis) at Manila Thermal Power Plant, Isla De Provisor	P 724,000.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot junk and scrap metals located at the Malaya Thermal Power Plant (KEPHILCO), Pililla, Rizal.	P 695,000.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot junk and scrap items located at the Lubang DPP, Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro.	

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.
3. BIDDERS FOR ITEM-3, SCHEDULE-1 MUST PRESENT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT AND ACCREDITATION AS WASTE OIL TREATER.

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM May 17, 2004 for Schedule-1 and May 18, 2004 for Schedule-II.

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – April 26, 27 & 28, 2004)

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROAD NETWORK AND UTILITIES OF THE PORO POINT COMMERCIAL COMPLEX

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) invites interested Consulting Firms to submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to bid, if eligible, for the conduct of a detailed engineering design of the Road Network and Utilities of the Poro Point Commercial Complex, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union.

Interested Consulting Firms should have completed contracts similar to the above services

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P3,000,000.00 shall come from PPMC corporate funds

Eligibility Forms shall be made available to interested firms on the date and place mentioned below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00).

Schedule of Procurement Activities:

Activity	Dates	Time	Place
Issuance of Eligibility Statement Form	May 5, 2004	8AM to 5PM	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Statement Form	May 11, 2004	12.00 noon	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Issuance of TOR and other Bid Documents and Site Inspection	May 27, 2004	8AM to 5PM	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Pre-Bid Conference	May 31, 2004	2:00 PM	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union
Submission and Opening of Bids	June 14, 2004	9:00 AM	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union

Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS FAIL" criteria, subject to a short listing by PPMC. Thus, only eligible and subsequently short listed firms shall be invited to participate in the bidding. All Bids shall be evaluated under the quality-cost based evaluation selection procedure as provided under RA 9184 and its IRR-A.

PPMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defect or required formality thereto and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, as determined by the BAC, is the most advantageous to the Corporation

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Consulting Services, you may contact Engr. Jose B. Karganilla at Telephone No. (072) 888-5954

(Sgd.) ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--April 20 & 27, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Concepcion

Invitation to Apply For Eligibility and To Bid

ITB No. 2004-NCB-PM-001

Date: April 15, 2004

To: All Eligible Suppliers,

The Municipal Government of Concepcion, Iloilo and its implementing partners, DAR-ADB invites sealed offers/ quotations from eligible suppliers for furnishing the supply of various construction materials amounting to Six Million Six Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (PhP 6,614,882.00) for the Concreting/ Rehab. of JNR Sitio Proper Agnaga-Sitio Belen Calamigan.

Offers or quotations shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after opening of quotations and must be accompanied by a bid security of two and one half (2-1/2%) percent of total quoted price, and shall be delivered to The Chairperson Pre/ Post-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Iloilo on or before **April 29, 2004** at 10:00 a.m.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ENGR. EVA MAE V. PARREÑAS
Chairperson
Bids Award Committee, Concepcion, Iloilo

(PDI--April 20 & 27, 2004)

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For further information, please call Kristine Santayana at telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail at ksantayana@eccp.com

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Philippine Daily Inquirer

MESSAGEBOARD

Mother's Day Treat

Warm your mom's heart with your deeply felt love note telling her how special she is to you.

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Thanks for all you do.

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Happy Mother's Day!

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If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday. I love you very much!

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Thank you for always being there. Happy Mother's Day!

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3	BOOBITA ROSE
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2	PETER PAN
3	HELL BOY
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5	TAKING LIVES
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8	SPARTAN
9	PAYCHECK
10	CHECK INN

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1	HELLBOY
2	BOOBITA ROSE
3	SPARTAN
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7	PAYCHECK
8	CHECK INN

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2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3	HIDALGO
4	BOOBITA ROSE

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1	DON'T TEMP ME
2	TAKING LIVES
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	LOVE ACTUALLY
5	GRUDGE 2
6	SORUM
7	BOOBITA ROSE
8	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	RESERVED
3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	50 FIRST DATES
5	HIDALGO
6	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
7	RESERVED
8	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

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2	THE GRUDGE 2
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5	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
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2	GRUDGE 2
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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3	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	12.40, 3.15, 3.00, 6.50, 8.25, 10.30
4	PAYCHECK	10:20, 12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7.40, 10:00
5	HELLBOY	11.30, 2.10, 4.50, 7.30, 10.10
6	TAKING LIVES	10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5.20, 7.35, 9.50
7	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11.55, 2.05, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35, 10.35
8	PETER PAN	12.30, 2.50, 5.10, 7.30, 9.45
9	TWISTED	11.15, 1.20, 3.25, 5.30, 7.35, 9.40
10	50 FIRST DATES	11.55, 2.05, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35, 10.35

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2	PAYCHECK	11.30, 1.40, 3.50, 6.00, 8.05, 10.00
3	TAKING LIVES	10.35, 12.50, 3.05, 5.20, 7.35, 9.50
4	SPARTAN	10.10, 12.25, 2.40, 4.55, 7.10, 9.40
5	PETER PAN	10:15, 12.30, 2.50, 5.10, 7.30, 9.50
6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	10:10, 12.25, 2.50, 2.40, 4.55, 7.10, 9.40
7	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	11.50, 2.30, 5.10, 7.45, 10.00

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1	SPARTAN	11:10, 1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9:10
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	10.40, 1.20, 4.00, 6.40, 9:30
3	TAKING LIVES	11.00, 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9:20
4	PETER PAN	10.05, 12.05, 2.15, 4.25, 6:40, 9:00
5	HELLBOY	10.55, 1.25, 3.55, 6:25, 9:00
6	CHECK-IN	11.00, 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00
7	PAYCHECK	10.25, 1.05, 2.45, 6.25, 9.05
8	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11.40, 2.15, 4.50, 7.25, 10:00

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1	HELLBOY	11:20, 1:35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.30
2	SPARTAN	11.45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8.30
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB	11.20, 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.30
4	TAKING LIVES	12.00, 2.00, 4.00, 6.00, 8.10
5	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	12.20, 3.00, 5.40, 8.30
6	PAYCHECK	11.45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15, 8.30
7	PETER PAN	11.20, 1.35, 3.50, 6.05, 8.30
8	THE UNINVITED	11.00, 1:20, 3.40, 6.00, 8.30

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2	HELLBOY
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	CHECK-IN

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2	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3	CHECK-IN
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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1	HELLBOY
2	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
3	HIGHWAYMEN
4	KARIBAL
5	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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1	PAYCHECK
2	PETER PAN
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5	ACACIA

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS
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1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	HELLBOY
3	HELLBOY
4	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
5	PAYCHECK

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS
San Fernando Pampanga
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1	TAKING LIVES
2	KARIBAL
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	HIGHWAYMEN
5	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6	HELLBOY

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1	HELLBOY
2	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3	CHECK-IN
4	SPARTAN
5	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
6	PAYCHECK

BACOLOD
441-0458/59

1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5	50 FIRST DATES
6	THE CURSE

ILOILO
336-8070/78

1	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2	HIDALGO
3	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5	50 FIRST DATES
6	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

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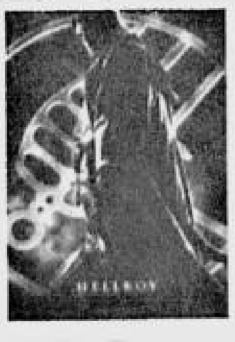

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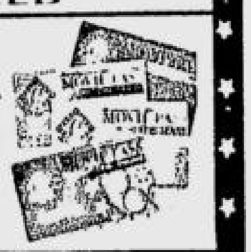

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DOTC scores BCDA for Northrail stance

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TRANSPORTATION department has criticized the Bases Conversion Development Authority for announcing plans to abandon the $503-million Manila-Clark Northrail train project.

A Transport officials said the statements made by BCDA president Rufo Colayco could alarm the project lender, the Export Import Bank of China, which had just approved a $400-million loan for the Northrail project.

Transportation Undersecretary Jose Cortes Jr. also frowned on Colayco's statement saying that the move to pull out of the project was an option to avoid granting subsidies in the future.

"There's no basis for BCDA to say that it cannot grant subsidies in the long term. We expect a foreign company to come in once a new railway authority is in place," Cortes said.

Cortes said there would be no need for BCDA to provide subsidies once Congress approved a bill that would create a new railway authority to replace the ailing Philippine National Railways.

Debt-saddled PNR could no longer entice fund managers to bankroll any project but the government is confident that a new entity would be able to raise the funds needed to operate and maintain the Northrail system.

The new railway agency will start on a clean slate similar to how the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas started anew after the government liquidated the old central bank.

The transport official pointed out that the DOTC was already working on securing more loans for the 32-kilometer Northrail project, which is expected to start commercial operations in 2007.

The new authority will effectively absorb PNR's railway operations and maintenance functions, he added.

Cortes said it was not up to the BCDA to decide on the fate of the Northrail project.

The construction of the Manila-Clark railway project will start once the government's equity of $22 million is released by the budget department, he said.

Northrail is being funded by a loan secured by the Philippine government from China Eximbank. The loan carries a 3-percent annual interest payable in 20 years.

Under the original terms of the loan, the interest was set at 7 percent and the loan was payable in 10 years.

Of the total project cost of $503 million, $395.22 million will come in the form of suppliers' credit (from China) while $107.82 million will come from the Philippine government through the BCDA.

The project seeks to provide efficient transport services between Metro Manila and Central Luzon through the reconstruction and conversion of the existing tracks of the PNR.

It also involves land acquisition in areas where PNR tracks are too narrow, utilities diversion, procurement of 30 four-car train sets, and provision of train control and signaling system.

Northrail will have six stations: Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiginto and Malolos in Bulacan.

Trains donated by China have already arrived but problems on relocating informal settlers hampered the full implementation of the project.

To address this, China has agreed to allocate $25 million for the relocation of informal settlers who will be affected by the project.

FIRST TIME IN 7 YEARS

Victorias posted profit in '03

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. has, for the first time in seven years under a Securities and Exchange Commission-sanctioned rehabilitation program, posted a net income of P31.5 million for crop year ending Aug. 31, 2003.

Its financial statements, audited by Joaquin Cunanan/Price Waterhouse, will be presented to its stockholders for approval during a meeting on April 30.

Although gross sales were only 2 percent higher than the previous crop year's level, the company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization rose by 67 percent to P743 million from P445 million in the previous year.

The improvement was attributed to a 14-percent reduction in the cost of sales, which was achieved despite an increase in production level.

Victorias milled 2.8 million gross tons of cane and produced 5.4 million bags of raw sugar, both broke records posted in the previous crop year. Molasses production reached 143,746 metric tons, 28 percent higher than the previous crop year's level.

Refined sugar production dropped from 6.4 million bags to 6.3 million bags due to the company's efforts to optimize its production level relative to its bagasse fuel supply.

As of February of the current crop year, sugar and molasses prices have dropped by an average of 12 percent, resulting in a P116-million decline in gross revenue. Its impact on the overall financial performance during the period was cushioned off by better refinery revenue which increased by P65 million and a net reduction of P30 million in costand expenses. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization during the period reached P403 million, which was lower than P425 million in the same period last crop year.

Victorias has so far paid creditors P204 million in interest charges during the current crop year. These charges, coupled with higher off-season repairs and a drop in raw sugar prices, resulted in a net loss of P15.3 million for the first six months of the current crop year.

In accordance with its rehabilitation plan, Victorias will also pay trade suppliers 25 percent of their exposure amounting to P90 million before August this year.

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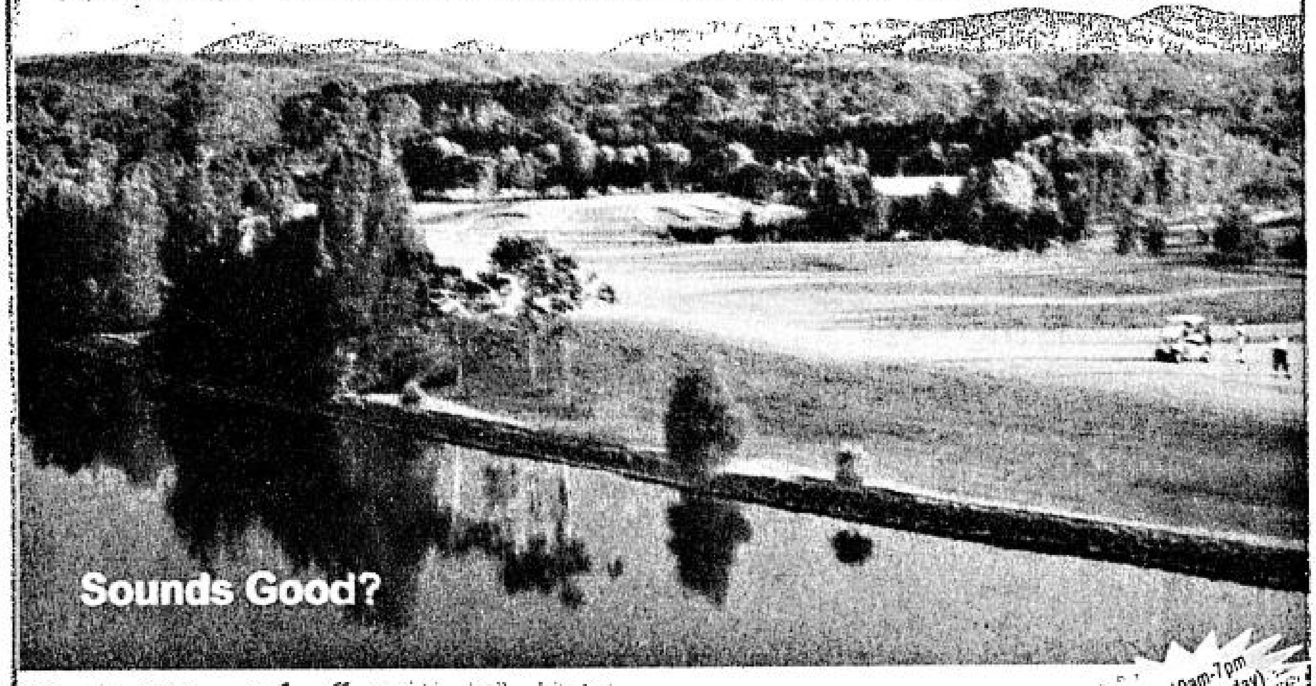

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

EMB lifts suspension on Buhai housing project

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MALOLOS CITY—The development and construction of the controversial Bulacan Housing and Agro-Industrial Inc. (Buhai) project can now resume after the regional Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) conditionally lifted on April 19 the suspension order imposed on the project.

Lormelyn Claudio, EMB regional director, said the order was based on an agreement that a number of conditions that the Bulacan provincial government (BPG) and Alto Projekt Asia, the project contractor and developer, should satisfy to ensure the mass housing project's safety for its occupants.

Suspension order

On April 6, the EMB suspended the ECC for the project after the regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) found out that the housing units are "sitting on highly altered or loose ground and some conditions of the ECC have been violated."

Claudio said before the suspension order was issued, the Alto Projekt Asia had already completed the 3.3-hectare land development and construction of less than 100 houses.

She said the lifting of the suspension order was also based on recent findings that the 9.9-hectare land area covered by an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) is safe and that its developer had followed some of the conditions of its ECC.

She said a recent meeting between MGB regional officials, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Bulacan environment office and the Geo-Environmental Consultancy Inc. hired by the Bulacan government clarified that the area where the housing units were built were not sitting on highly altered and fractured zones or "loose grounds."

She said the provincial government has confirmed that the completed housing units in the project site were already issued with building permits.

Claudio said the Bulacan government has submitted copies of a geotechnical report on the Buhai site, a notarized certification stating that the 9.9-hectare project area is safe for human settlement, a report on the mitigating measures undertaken on the site and reforestation program, and a copy of the project design.

Permanent lifting

She said they would permanently lift the ECC suspension after the compliance of the project's developer with priority activities such as engineering and slope stabilization, construction of check dams, siltation and ponds and other mitigating measures.

She said the Bulacan government and the contractor must pass the strict monitoring process to be conducted by her office and the regional MGB, including the Bulacan government's submission of the engineering, geological and geohazard assessment (Egga) report duly validated and approved by the MGB.

Claudio also said they have agreed that no relocation should be undertaken until validation and approval of the Egga report is undertaken by a multipartite monitoring team composed of the regional MGB, the project proponent, concerned local government units and the regional EMB.

Buhai, a major project of Gov. Josefina dela Cruz, will benefit some 10,000 families, mostly squatters living along the MacArthur highway from Meycauayan to Calumpit towns.

The families would be relocated once the construction of the government's $503-million North Rail Transit project starts.

The first phase of the Northrail project, which covers the construction of a 32.2-km rail track from Caloocan City to Malolos City, is expected to be completed in two to three years.

The North Luzon Railways Development Corp., which is under the supervision of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, had donated the Buhai project site.

HOUSING units of the controversial Buhai project

RDANT HEIGH

VERDANT HEIGHTS GROUNDBREAKING
Verdant Heights, a P300 million housing project which offers 216 units of different types, recently broke ground at the Multinational Village in Parañaque City. At the groundbreaking were officials of the project proponents One Asia Development Corp., Atlanta Land Corp. and International Exchange Bank. From left are Assunta Gonzales, Irene Chan, Marisol Ibañez, Leah Garcia, Sonny Justiniano, Ronald del Rosario, Evelyn Geronimo, Evelyn Solis, Victor Manarang and Edgar Ilanes.

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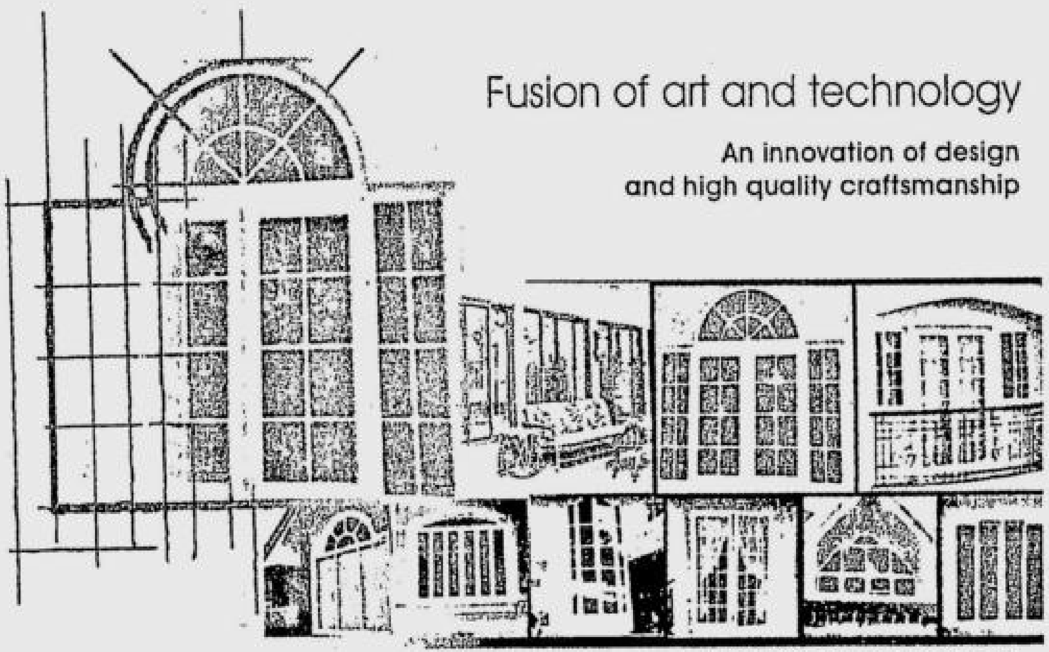
Driven by comfort, beauty, luxury and simplicity, the Bonifacio Ridge is the ideal community for young executives, baby-boomers, empty nesters and retirees, as well as investors seeking to make a secure financial decision. Designed for homeowners of all ages, it has successfully created an upscale, vibrant community that meets the needs of all its residents. Unique in value, view, price and location, Bonifacio Ridge is truly something you can count on because it was made for you.

Interested to live in Bonifacio Ridge, you may call 848-5000. You may also email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. Model units are available for viewing at 1st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.



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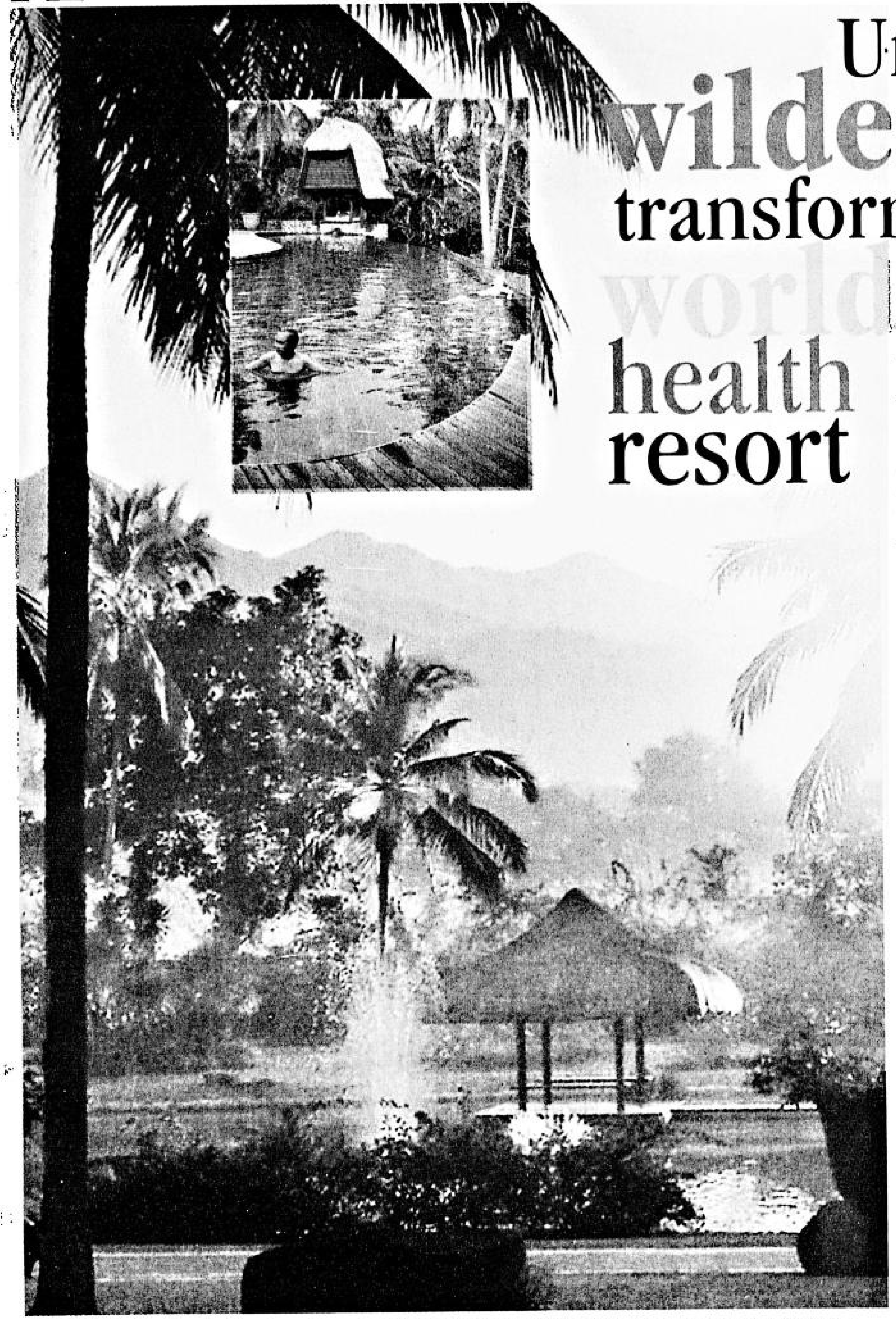
Untended wilderness transformed into world-class health resort



A NATURE spring flows in abundance throughout the resort in natural stone infinity pools,fountains and lagoons.

Text and Photos by Lynett A. Villariba

WHEN Eckard and Perla Rempe first came to look at the farmland offered to them in Batangas, it did not look like they could make something out of an untended wilderness of wild vegetation on sloping terrain isolated by a creek from surrounding habitation.

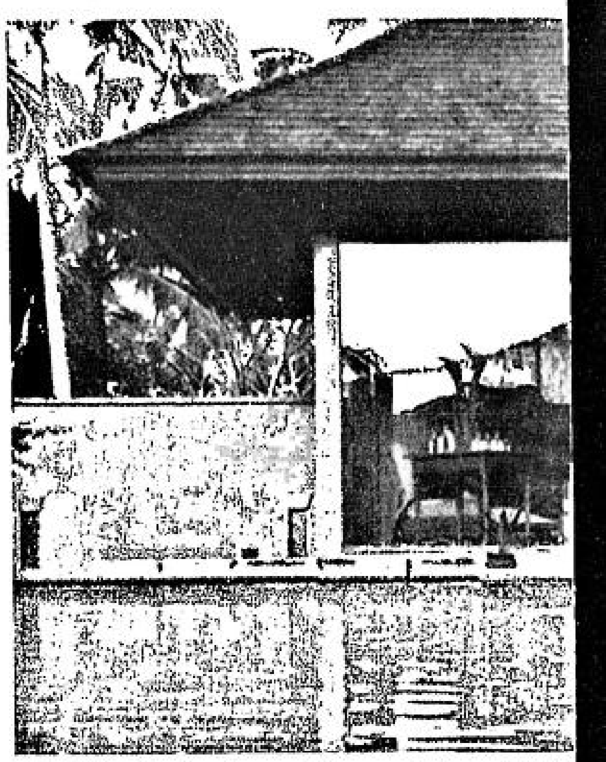
The farm site lies deep in the heart of Lipa near the foot of Mt. Malarayat, past animal farms of cattle, chicken and hogs. Inaccessible by car, they had to negotiate a footpath and cross a creek through the backdoor from barangay Tipacan to reach the 9-hectare land in Barangay San Benito. There they discovered virgin land hidden from development.

Standing on a vantage spot by the edge looking at a lush green wall of coconut palms and down on a brook, the future farm owners were engulfed in a stream of sunlight filtering through the trees as if by some mystical force. Without saying a word, the couple knew that The Farm was it for them.

Getaway destination

For many weekends and summers, The Farm became a getaway destination, a picnic site for the family where they would converge on the same spot that became almost a shrine. It was here where a dream was launched: a Hippocrates health resort for Asia of purely natural healing techniques indigenous to the region.

So it is that the estate expanded beyond the creek-defined boundary into a 45-hectare plantation only to preserve the natural habitat around a health facility. Its growth anchored more on serendipity than feasibility studies, the coconut farm complemented an integrated venture: from virgin coconut oil to buko juice, from organic soaps to therapeutic and edible oils. A holistic health farm was envisioned not just for organic farming but for nurturing wellness in the best possible environment that natural—and financial—resources can nurture.



MORNING has broken, and the sun rising behind M

While in Bali to get away from an investment dilemma, a stranger came up to Eckard Rempe one evening telling him to hold on to the dream he was on the verge of giving up. The disheveled-looking tourist turned out to be a famous psychic in Germany. Rempe followed his unsolicited advice up to engaging a water douser (like feng shui in philosophy) expert to pinpoint the source of springwater underneath.

True enough today, an unlimited source of natural springwater of pure quality doused from the bowels of a volcanic mountain flows throughout the 9-hectare developed land to keep the pools running and quench the thirst for health of the resort community.

The development progressed inch by inch in a virtual state, meter by meter in landscape design, and dollar by dollar in investment from a thriving export earnings, for over a decade—including three years in the making—of financial tribulations. The dream persisted and won.

Health resort

The Hippocrates Health Resort of Asia, otherwise known as The Farm of San Benito, took more than 10 years to come to fruition and be accepted by the surrounding poor communities as a source of employment, and by a health-challenged world as a source of healing back the natural way.

As the health resort is catching worldwide attention for its unique integration of luxury and health, it is slowly building up to be the country's showcase on the new potential of medical tourism a dollar-strapped government has started to tap.

The Farm of San Benito has pioneered in

LRT 2 line extension expected to boost visits to Araneta Center

THE ARANETA Center, the country's first retail and entertainment complex, will get a big boost in customer visits following the Light Rail Transport Authority's line expansion of LRT 2 up to Legarda or just one more station short to complete the line all the way to Doroteo Jose adjacent to the terminus of LRT 1.

The Araneta Center is the country's first owner-managed, mixed-use shopping and entertainment destination in Metro Manila with visitors averaging over a million daily. It is a 35-hectare expanse where Metro Manila's major mass railway transport systems (i.e. MRT 3 and LRT 2) converge.

Leading retail stores

Within its boundaries, one can find the country's leading retail stores like Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza, Value Station, SM, Rustans, National Bookstore, Isetann, Plaza Fair, Pure Gold, Shopwise and soon, the Gateway Mall. Here, one can buy the freshest produce from the country's cleanest wet market, the Farmers Market.

The Araneta Center also serves as a transport hub to public conveyances going to all directions of the metropolis and its immediate environs. It also hosts a provincial bus terminal whose operations reach Visayas and Mindanao.

Singularly, the Araneta Center has one of the world's biggest and most famous dome structures, Araneta Coliseum. Recently, it started to metamorphose into a most modern, yet, lush garden environment with several ongoing developments to once again become Metro Manila's premier lifestyle center.

Ultimate lifestyle center

Providing unparalleled access to LRT 2 is the Gateway Mall, which is scheduled to open in June this year. This is a P2.5-billion, 100,000-square-meter retail property development that is the first major leg of the Araneta Center Redevelopment Plan.

The Gateway Mall is the only mall in the world that connects to a world-famous sports and entertainment arena, the Araneta Coliseum. It provides a nexus to Metro Manila's two mass transport systems, MRT 3 and LRT 2, effectively linking Edsa to Aurora Boulevard. It features a 450 sq-m, four-level, lush, tropical-themed, open-air interior garden called the "Oasis."

The Gateway Mall also has a Cineplex with 10 state-of-the-art movie theaters with centralized ticketing facility, centrally controlled projection room and a skylight. There are 16 entry points, plus, three loading and unloading bays specifically designated for PUJs, FX shuttle transport and private vehicles effectively segregating each type for better traffic flow. The Gateway Mall is projected to capture the imagination of the public in its search for the ultimate lifestyle center.

LRT 2 project

When completed, the LRT 2 project stretches to a total of 13.8 km. It will answer the need for a safe, comfortable and quick way to traverse Metro Manila. The tracks extend from Santolan, Pasig in the east to Doroteo Jose, Manila in the west.

The LRT 2 will transport people from Pasig, Marikina, San Juan, Quezon City, Manila and other outlying cities and towns. Later, the line can further be extended as far as the North Harbor in the west and Cogeo, Antipolo in the east.

The project consists of 11 stations interconnected by mostly elevated mass transit line except the Katipunan station, which is underground. The depot lies in the east with the line crossing the Marikina River along Marcos Highway. Then, it travels along Aurora Boulevard, Magsaysay Boulevard and Legarda to end at the Recto Avenue station adjacent to the Doroteo Jose station of LRT 1.

18 four-car trains

The LRT 2 line will be served by 18 four-car trains from the Asia-Europe MRT Consortium led by the Marubeni Corp. All trains are air-conditioned. Each train with four motorized cars has a total length of 92.6 meters. One train has a seating capacity of 232 passengers seated longitudinally on fiberglass benches and 1,396 standing passengers or 1,628 passengers per train.

The trains can travel at a maximum speed of 80 km per hour and travel time between end terminals Santolan and Recto will be about 25 minutes only. Each train has 20 doors per side to facilitate fast and convenient boarding and alighting. The passenger seats are positioned along the sidewalls, and there are dedicated seats for the elderly and the disabled.

With this development, residents from the west of Edsa who had difficulty traveling across the metropolis will now find it a lot easier to visit Araneta Center to witness and experience the significant new developments taking place and for them to say, "At Araneta Center, the future has just begun."

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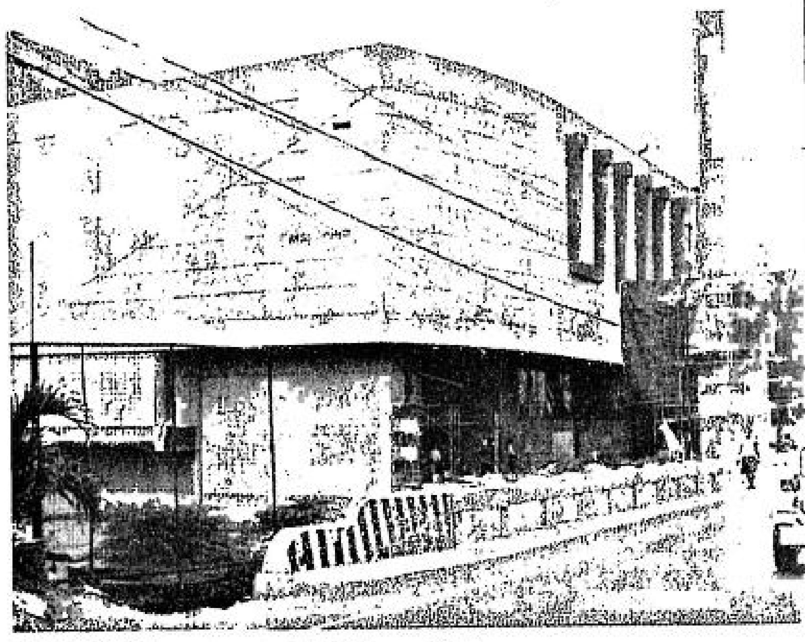

THE NEWLY constructed FRC Super Mall

Cuevasville to open newest mall project

CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp.'s newest mall project in Imus, Cavite, will soon open its door to the public, said Richard Masangkay, the real estate company's spokesperson.

Cuevasville—the fastest-growing real estate company in the country—is upbeat about the mall's opening much ahead of schedule. FRC Super mall is its second mall venture in this likewise booming province.

Much bigger in size than its sibling, the FRC Mall in Bacoor, the Supaer Mall is expected to accommodate more shoppers, who Masangkay promised, would be treated to world-class shopping perience.

Masangkay said the project part and parcel of Cuevasvil master plan of putting up m where there is great demand fo The Super Mall, he said, would the latest consumer attraction could perk up consumer spend in Cavite.

The mall is nestled on an 8, square-meter lot on Gen. Em Aguinaldo Highway. Once finish its total floor area of 34,800 sq will accommodate big-time retai bannered by Pure Gold Price C and fast-food outlets led by KFC.

Joint ventures in realty projects

A SEMINAR on joint venture and syndication for real estate projects will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on May 4, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Enrico Cruz, a civil engineer with more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education, is the lecturer. He is a licensed real estate consultant, placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and 8th in the real estate brokers board examination in 1988.

Among the topics to be taken concepts and types of joint ve and project syndication; reaso joint ventures; obligations landowner; undertakings of th veloper; role of the syndicat nancier's role; packaging a JV p al; the syndication agreement; ing schemes; safety nets for de er; safeguards for landowner; sions in joint venture contract participation mortgages.

For details, call Urban Insti 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet ic.net.ph

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t. Malarayat is reflected on the spa glass doors.

> ıe greater
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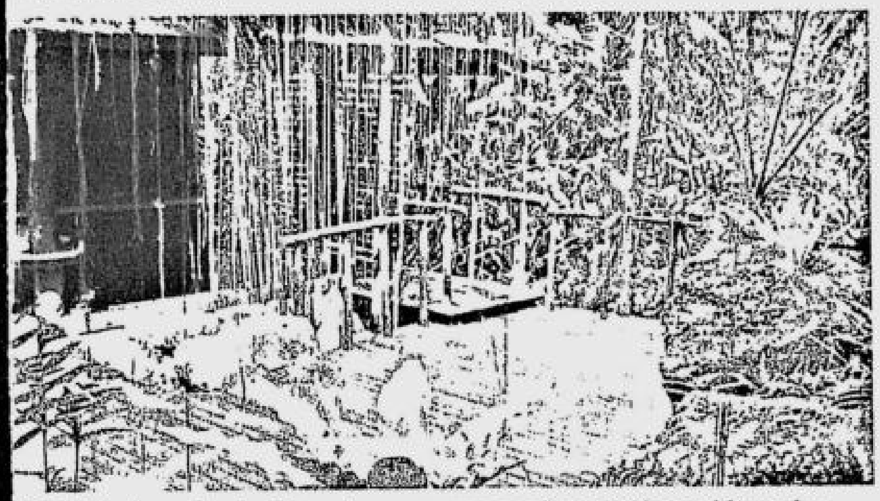
creating a synergy between nature and man. It has already cultivated an untended land into an optimum source of nourishment. If it took millions of dollars to restore nature to its pristine state that would ensure man's well-being, then the luxury would have been well worth it. The greater task lies next in cultivating a change in man's health outlook and redefining where true wealth lies.

The Rempes know that the greater challenge lies in educating the people it touches—from the poor farmer to the spa habituè—on how to work with nature to achieve a state of well-being. Only then would all the painstaking investments have been worth it.

For inquiries, call Lipa direct 696-3175 and 696-3795 or the Mandarin Oriental Hotel booking office 751-3498 amd 751-3497. To learn more about The Farm at San Benito, log on to www.thefarm.com.ph.



IDDEN lush garden beside a stream serves as refuge for the soul from the tle and bustle of life .

The importance of homeowners' associations

By Alexis A. Acacio

BUILDING DREAMS

AFTER A SUBDIVISION is fully developed and the developer turns over the management of the subdivision, then the homeowners' association has the big responsibility of making sure that the area is properly maintained. If the homeowners' association is weak and mismanaged, this can become the start of problems for the entire subdivision.

The homeowners' association and the barangay are the governing bodies that will make sure that the rules and regulations of the subdivision will be followed so that the residents will live in harmony. They also sometimes serve as mediators of conflicts between neighbors. The homeowners' association, for any subdivision, plays a very important role in its future. A mismanaged association will surely lead to the demise of the subdivision while on the other hand, a properly managed one can add to the appreciation in value of the subdivision.

Association's functions

After the completion of a project, the developer turns over the maintenance and upkeep of the subdivision to the homeowners' association. The association has many responsibilities:

- **Security**—The association makes sure that the subdivision is secure and it usually hires a security agency to do the job. The agency makes sure that the area is safe against any possible intruders.
- **Maintenance**—Any neighborhood, to function adequately, needs funds for its upkeep. The bulk of the monthly dues collected goes to the maintenance costs of the neighborhood.
- **Road Repair**—Roads and sidewalks do not last forever. These need to be repaired and maintained on a regular basis.
- **Clubhouse Operations**—Operating a clubhouse or multipurpose hall with a pool, function area and basketball court takes a lot of money. To provide for its upkeep, the association collects the appropriate fees.
- **Construction Rules**—The strict imposition of rules and regulations especially when it comes to construction is the responsibility of the local government. The homeowners association also shares this responsibility. Non-compliance with construction regulations can be unsafe and the general intention of the master plan of an area may not be realized. As an example, if the area is a residential zone and commercial establishments are built, then the peace and quiet of the neighbors will surely be compromised.
- **Community Activities**—The association coordinates and organizes activities for the community. These include welcome and Christmas parties and sports fests.

HOME Owner's Association

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Sources of funds

The funds for the homeowners' association is mainly sourced from the monthly dues that are received from the residents of the area. Sad to say, there are homeowners who do not pay their monthly association dues on time and worse, do not pay at all. If the funds of the association dwindle, then the maintenance upkeep of the area will be compromised.

Some subdivisions also impose a fee on the deliveries of materials. The fee collected is then used to repair any damage that is brought about by the delivery trucks.

Homeowners' responsibilities

The individual homeowner has the responsibility of paying his/her obligations to the homeowners' association. There are a lot of costs that the association has to shoulder and the bulk of these would be allotted for maintenance, security and beautification of the neighborhood.

Not because you own the house and lot that you are living in now means that you may now do what you wish with your property. One has the great responsibility of following the rules, regulations and restrictions imposed by the association.

A properly managed homeowners' association is one of the most important requirements of being a successful neighborhood and has a direct correlation to property appreciation. A well-kept neighborhood that provides a great sense of community will ensure that the increase in value of the individual property will be realized with time.

The homeowners' association is composed of the individual homeowners of a community and its success will mainly depend on you—the responsible homeowner.

E-mail the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.

CPAC Monier hits record high in first quarter sales of 2004

LEADING concrete roof tile manufacturer CPAC Monier Philippines Inc. has reported record-setting sales for the first quarter of the year, hitting 22 percent higher sales compared to the same period last year with sales figures in the months of February and March posting record highs in company history.

Architect Arnel Nacor, CMPI marketing and sales manager, said that if the company would consider its Order Bank, or orders with signed contracts and down payments, CMPI would have effectively achieved its full-year target for 2004 already.

CMPI sales for January this year registered a 43 percent increase compared with the same period last year, while February figures registered a 14 percent increase and March posted a 15 percent increase. In terms of volume, the March sales is now considered the company's highest in its history.

Increasing awareness

Rodolfo Bueno, CMPI general manager, attributed CMPI's dominant first quarter performance to the increasing awareness of major developers about the many advantages of using CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles.

Bueno said the latest to utilize CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles in its projects is Haus-Land Assets and Realty, the biggest developer in Central Luzon. Its La Casa Nueva project in San Fernando, Pampanga, has 186 middle-end housing units, all using CPAC Monier roofing.

Other major developers that continue using CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles, helping the company retain industry leadership, are Ayala Land, Filinvest, Crown Asia and Robinsons Land.

Woodridge designers cite HardiPlank advantages

FIBER cement leader James Hardie Philippines' HardiPlank is the building board of choice of Makati-based Recio+Casa Architects, designers and developers of the cozy Woodridge in Tagaytay City.

The fiber cement boards (FCBs) made from Portland cement and cellulose met the Woodridge owner Highland Prime's requirement for a building material that combines the homey look of wood and the strength of concrete, said architect Butch Zamora of Recio+Casas Architects.

Mid-rise development

Zamora said that while the façade of the mountain architecture-inspired mid-rise development features a combination of simulated shakes, wood and stone, the Woodridge owners had vetoed the use of natural wood.

The Recio+Casa associate architect noted not only has good quality wood become scarce, but scarcity had also caused prices to soar.

"Availability was not a problem with HardiPlank because we were able to source our supply directly from James Hardie's state-of-the-art facility in Cabuyao, Laguna. This allowed us to build faster and more cost-effectively," explained Zamora.

HardiPlank is noncombustible, water-resistant and termite proof—qualities that enhanced the sturdiness of the Woodridge. The plank's density also made painting the walls and ceilings a hassle-free task.

Amenities

The Woodridge offers two-bedroom units, each with a floor area of 147 square meters, and three-bedroom units measuring 220 square meters. All 138 units are fully air-conditioned and fitted out with conveniences that spell comfort, if not luxury—timber-finished floors, pinewood trimmings on the ceiling, textured painted walls and carpeted bedroom floors with pinewood baseboard. The kitchen is equipped with a cooking range and oven, range hood, refrigerator and a complete cabinet system.

The owners haves thoughfully provided cable TV and telephone outlets, a built-in hot water system, emergency power supply and uninterrupted water supply. Each unit is also provided with two covered parking spaces.

How to profit from $27B Fil-Am market

THE SOCIETY of US-Philippines Real Estate Marketing Network (Supremnet), a US-based company, will conduct a workshop-lecture course and the latest development or updates on the $27 billion Filipino-American market for the Philippine real estate industry on April 30.

The main speaker and facilitator is Ed. T. Pascual, a licensed California and Nevada real estate broker who has been selling Philippine property to Filipino Americans since 1984.

The seminar will also dwell on the various financing schemes desired by the Filipino-American investors as well as the many tax breaks granted by the US government to their citizens when they invest in countries like the Philippines.

Other relevant topics to be discussed are those from Pascual's book "How to profit from the $27 billion Filipino American market," now on sale at major Philippine and US bookstores.

There will also be a business matching session where the attendees will be allowed to discuss their projects with Pascual for eventual marketing to the Filipino Americans. For details, call 812-4872 or 812-3262.

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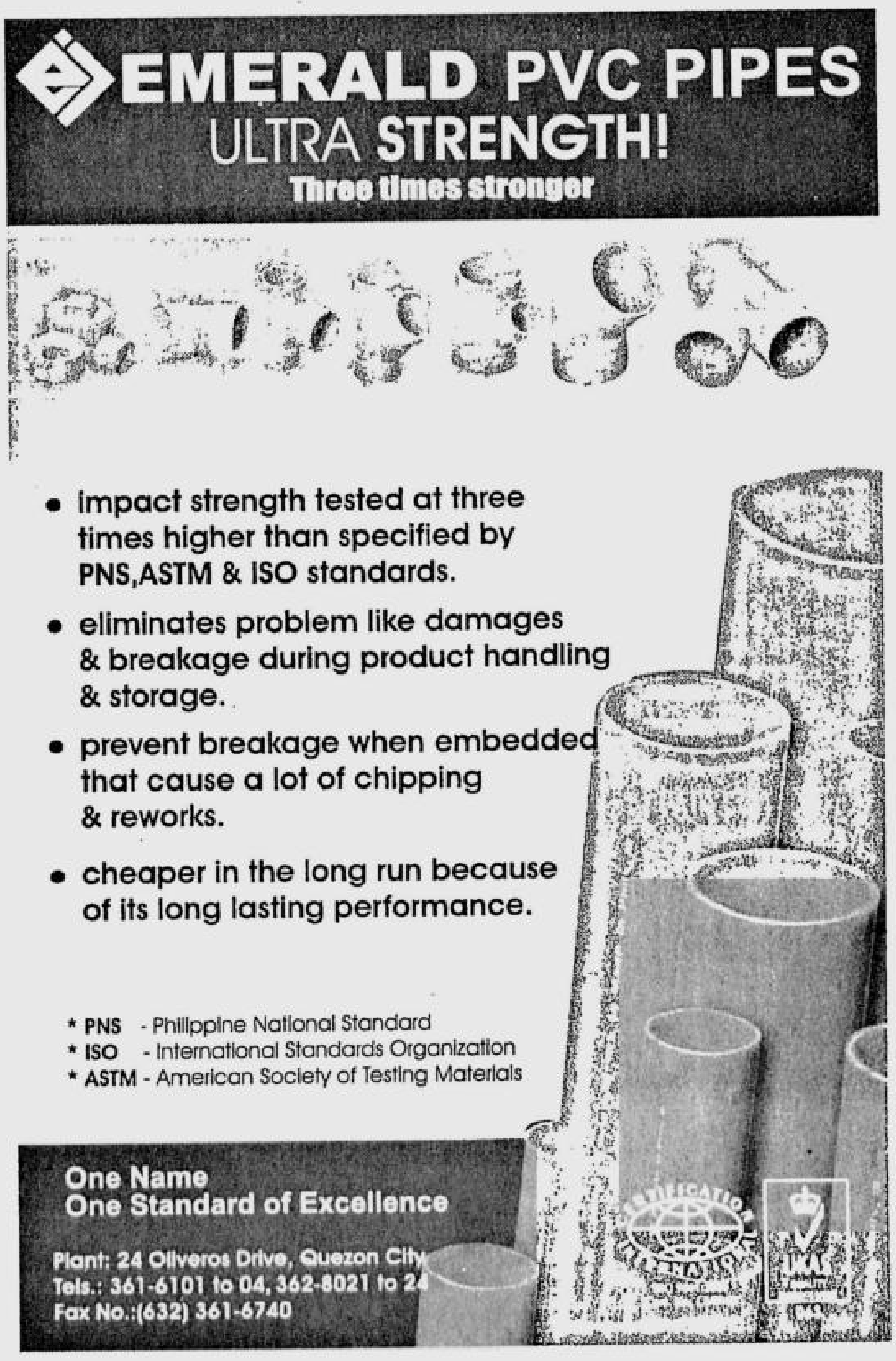
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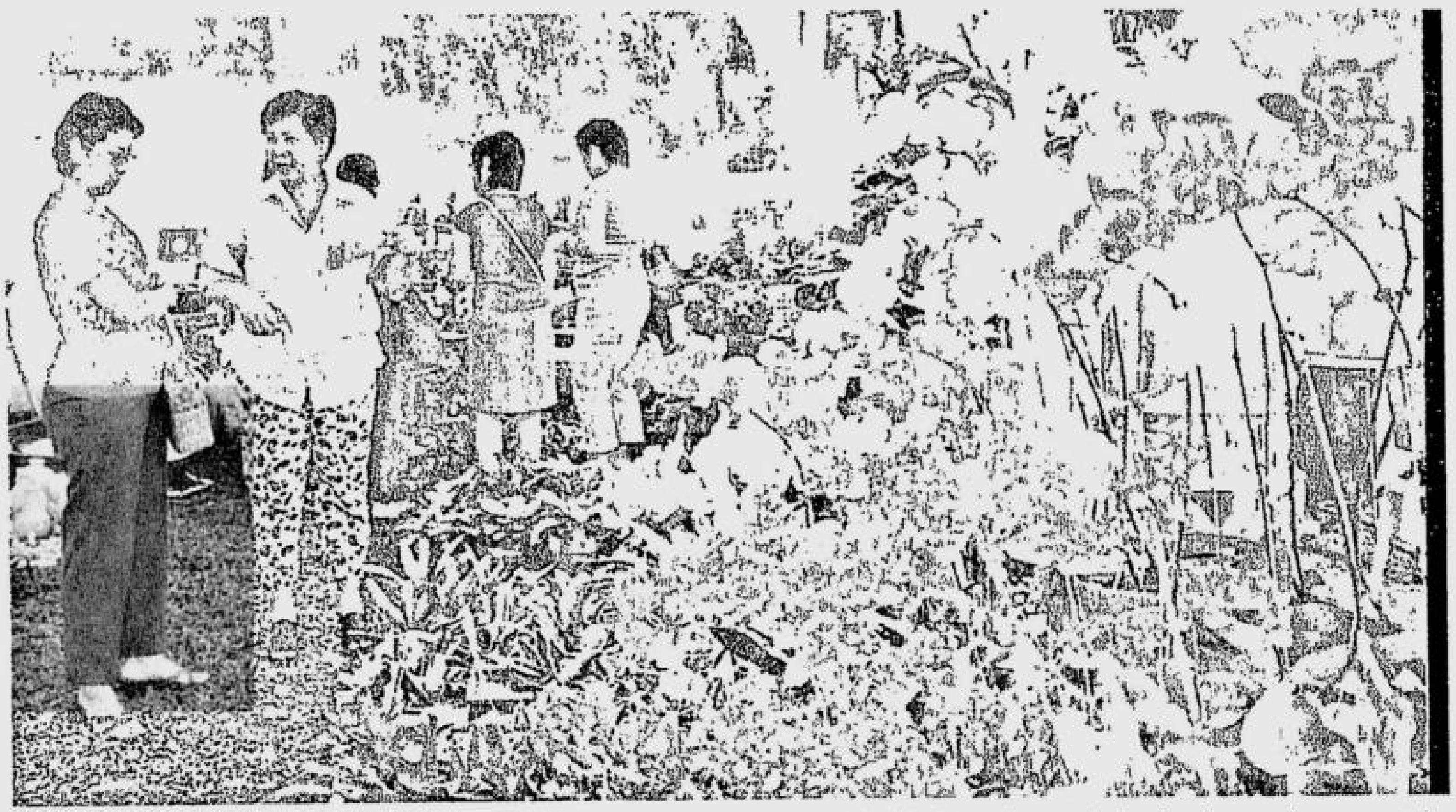
A sanctuary for nature and garden buffs

AYALA Land Inc. recently organized a garden fair at Ayala Hillside Estates, its latest residential subdivision in Quezon City. The 22-hectare development near top universities and schools was a most appropriate venue for this gathering of plant and garden accessory retailers.

Exhibitors at the garden fair offered lot owners and potential investors new ideas in landscaping and accessorizing with plants. They drew inspiration from the varied landscapes offered by the subdivision originally carved from the original Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club. Exhibitors included Mett's Plant Art, Purificacion Orchids, Florera of Betty Duterte, Clean Craft and Custom Clay.



NEW ideas in landscaping and accessorizing with plants were presented to lot owners and guests at Ayala Hillside Estates during a recent garden fair. Strong interest in the development has prompted Ayala Land to open still another phase of residential subdivision in May.

Rare property

Ayala Hillside Estates is a rare property in Quezon City that offers scenic views and wide, open spaces. "It's a nature retreat and the perfect setting for a garden," says project manager Thomas Mirasol.

Retailers at the garden fair were surprised to see that butterflies and wild flowers serve as accents to the landscape. They also very much appreciated the mature trees with full crowns that Ayala Land has tried to preserve, moving only those trees that would affect the safety rating of the subdivision's roadways. At one of the village entrances, for instance, an unexpected rotunda of kalachuchi trees greets the visitors. In bloom, the trees very much capture the character of the development. Essentially, Ayala Hillside retains the best of nature while incorporating new trends in subdivision development.

Resort-like setting

The guests invited by officers of Ayala Land Sales Inc. were toured around the subdivision to better appreciate the resort-like setting within city limits. Ayala Hillside Estates offers vistas of a lake, rolling golf fairways, mountains and cityscapes in the distance. No wonder lots in the current phase were briskly taken up.

Dwindling lot inventory has prompted Ayala Land to prepare still another phase to be opened to the public in May. The new phase will be in the heart of the subdivision and will offer a panorama of rolling golf greens on the approach to the new section. "Imagine going through such a vista every day on the way home," observes Mirasol.

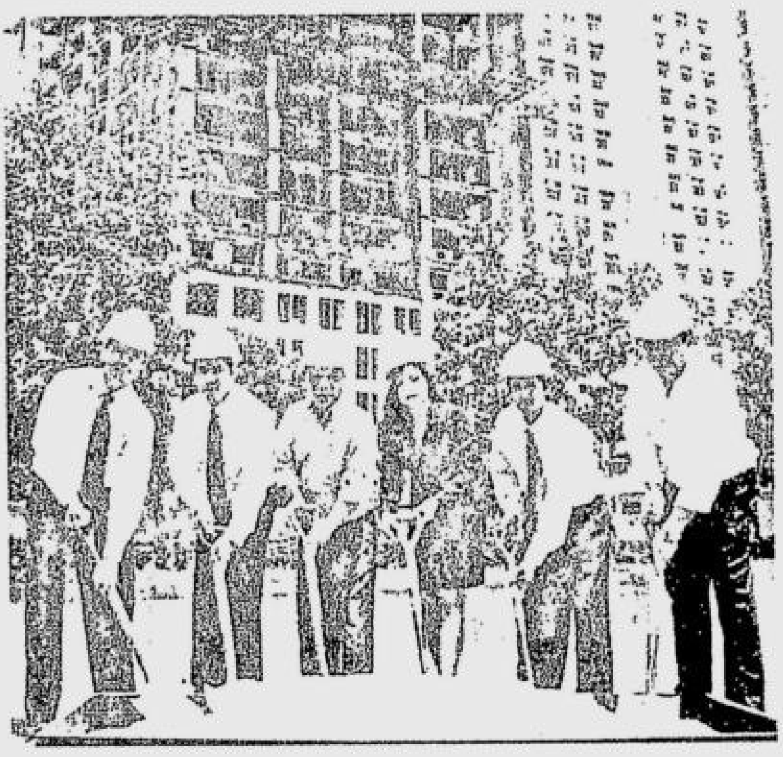
Fresh layout

He explains that the original golf course was converted into a residential area and a more compact golf course with a fresh layout. Both components were designed to complement each other, he says. Many lots have the fairways as their backyard and the view for golfers will certainly be made more interesting with the elegant homes that are expected to rise in the area.

He emphasizes nevertheless that residential area and golf course are completely independent of one another and have separate access routes. This means that privacy for both communities will be preserved.

Infrastructures at Ayala Hillside Estates also take into consideration its picturesque setting. Utility lines for telephone and electricity have been buried underground so views remain unmarred by unsightly cables. Unlike your usual subdivision that is laid out in a grid, lots are organized into pocket neighborhoods connected by a main road. This way most areas remain free from through traffic—a benefit that translates to better security and more privacy for lot owners.

For more details, call 848-5000 or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph.



TOPPING-OFF RITES

Premier urban developer Megaworld Corp. recently held topping-off ceremonies to mark the structural completion of the third tower of its One Orchard Road luxury residential condominium in Eastwood City. Present at the rites are, from left, Eastwood Property Holdings Inc. (Ephi) VP for marketing John Natividad, sales director Emil Cruz, engineer Gregorio Origenes and Associates, Ephi senior sales manager Ruby Verzosa, sales director Pol Almienda and J.D. Bernardo Engineering Construction president Juanchito D. Bernardo.

Brittany achieves milestones in high-end realty projects

BRITTANY Corp., the country's pioneer in developing high-end, master-planned residential communities which are unique for being inspired by coherent and distinctive themes, has achieved multiple milestones recently toward the completion of its ongoing projects—Portofino in Alabang, CrossWinds in Tagaytay, La Posada in Sucat, and Vita Toscana in Cavite.

Portofino, the Italian-themed residential community strategically located only minutes away from the Alabang commercial area along the new Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road, has sold out phases 1 to 4 called Portofino Heights in less than a year. The development is now selling phases 5 to 12 consisting of Portofino South and Courtyards of Portofino. The concept of Portofino is inspired by its Italian namesake, a striking seaport town with its gentle, rolling hills, a river and plenty of greenery, where life is celebrated with exuberance. Buyers of property at Portofino are families who are at home in any of the world's finest destinations. Portofino residents are citizens of the world in a true sense.

Weekend retreat

CrossWinds, the Swiss-inspired weekend retreat hidden away in a secluded yet easily accessible prime location in Tagaytay, its rolling terrain boasting thousands and thousands of imported pine trees, has sold out its first area of Swiss Quadrilles in only four months. Crosswinds, named after the winds that converge from different points of the compass above the site, attracts residents who have definite ideas about what they want in life, who want a quiet hideaway close to nature, a weekend getaway.

La Posada is the residential enclave of Brittany Bay, a self-contained community facing Laguna de Bay located only meters away from the Sucat Interchange. La Posada is now 90 percent sold, with 90 percent of its infrastructure development completed and a number of owners already occupying their new homes. A section of La Posada, Victorianne Row, which offers striking residential designs inspired by those "Postcard Row" Neo-Victorian homes on Alamo Square in San Francisco, has sold more than 50 percent of its units.

The latest addition to Brittany's roster of developments is Vita Toscana, the only upscale, residential development in Cavite situated at the gateway of southern Manila just off the Coastal Road, is located right on Molino Boulevard, a four-lane highway that will be open at the end of 2004. The site provides convenient access from Cavite to Manila as well as Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Laguna through the new Link Road. Vita Toscana offers the countryside charm typical of Italy's Tuscany province. A place where life is not lived in a rush, Vita Toscana allows its fortunate residents to savor the moment.

Among its clients, Brittany is setting new standards in high-end real estate with its theme-inspired developments, each of which conveys the feeling of being in a different world. Brittany developments are characterized by the innovative and unique application of design concepts. Thoughtful design, planning and execution by Brittany are among its signature elements, along with the pride of ownership and the superior values its property provides.

ROBINSONS LAND CHALLENGE

Coscolluela to design best of condo living

THE BUSINESS of designing condominiums is a moving target. Multitudes of high-rise residential condominium projects sprout left and right and each is packaged with promises of structural glitter and quintessential good life.

Building a newer and better project that will outdo the latest toast of condo living enthusiasts may be a tough job but one luminary in the architectural design circle, architect William V. Coscolluela, took the challenge posed by Robinsons Land Corp. to design a better life and living style for the design and function-savvy, upwardly mobile urban dwellers.

The result of the master designer's collaboration with his team is Robinsons Land's latest high-rise condominium, "Fifth Avenue Place" in Bonifacio Global City. The architect is more than willing to explain his rationale and perspective behind the latest opus.

Says Coscoluella: "Different site locations, especially those with specific view requirements will always make a unique project. When Fifth Avenue Place was in the drawing board, we saw a very good opportunity to maximize angles that show the best views. The overall design of Fifth Avenue Place was inspired by the puzzle of the orientation in the lot versus the shape of the plan."

COSCOLLUELA is shown with RLC's high-rise buildings division general manager Danilo Ignacio.

THE DYNAMIC team behind the Fifth Avenue project. Ignacio, seated, is surrounded by the pool of top architects behind RLC's latest project, The Fifth Avenue in Bonifacio Global City. Standing, from left, are architects Gary Coscolluela, William Coscolluela (chief designer), Paras and Mangubat.

He adds, "We have put in a lot of time and careful consideration in order to come up with the best combination between the position and shape of the building. The result was a contemporary architectural profile that incorporated these elements, bringing harmony to the entire design."

Residents and would-be residents of high-rise condominiums will appreciate this functional principle. A good view of the city skyline and suburban greenery at any angle from the top is a premium indulgence. "We are proudest to have achieved building Fifth Avenue Place on a strategic orientation which maximizes the exposure to the best panoramic view to the morning sun for a good number of units," he cites.

The guiding principle for Coscolluela's design is hinged on what will match the future residents' lifestyle profile and what residential features they would be willing to invest in. "Realizing the lifestyle requirements of its market, Robinsons Land has placed a lot priority in ensuring that there are ample garden and recreational areas on the ground, as well as facilities that will enable residents to pursue their fitness pursuits like badminton courts and jogging paths. Over 75 percent of the land area is being devoted to such," adds Coscolluela.

Residential units were also designed to address very important insights from condominium residents who wish for a more ideal setup. "There is a demand for equal window installations for living rooms and bedrooms, reasonable travel distances to and from the elevator and more spaces for recreation," he says. "We made sure that these important factors are present in the design along with layout efficiency and ease of combining units."

And because the tried and tested principle of "location, location, location" still rings true in the real estate quarters, Coscolluella also has a thing to say about it with respect to Fifth Avenue Place. "Socially-mobile residents will find the Fifth Avenue Place as an attractive and worthwhile investment. It is located in an emerging hub of cosmopolitan living while being minutes away from places of commercial and business activity."

Empire East Suntrust introduces Sunrise Hills model house

EMPIRE East Suntrust (Empire East Properties Inc.), a developer of affordable energy-saving homes, is holding on-site open house activities for its Sunrise Hills and Governor's Hills community developments in Sabang, Dasmariñas, and in Gen. Trias, Cavite, respectively, in April and May.

A bare model unit of Casa Montecilla, a triplex-type house of Sunrise Hills, opened for public viewing for the first time on April 18. This will happen again on May 16. Meanwhile, Governor's Hills will have its own open house on May 2.

Energy-saving homes

Empire East Suntrust's energy-saving homes use roofs with built-in insulation and concrete-and-steel wall panels with an insulating polystyrene layer. These walls block heat six times better than ordinary, noninsulated walls.

The revolutionary polystyrene material effectively keeps the heat out, significantly reducing air-conditioner usage and bringing down power costs. It also renders homes soundproof, sturdy and durable as well as resistant to fire, earthquakes and pests.

These breakthrough energy-saving materials and technologies are used by Empire East Suntrust in its large-scale community housing projects in Governor's Hills and Sunrise Hills in Cavite as well as in Sta. Rosa Heights in Laguna.

Affordable homes

Sunrise Hills offers two distinct types of residential units: a triplex-type unit in Phase 1 dubbed Casa Montecilla and a slightly smaller but more affordable house called Villa Savannah in Phase 2. Both types of units may be expanded by adding a mezzanine level. Casa Montecilla and Villa Savannah are available for as low as P3,900+ and P3,300+ a month, respectively.

Meanwhile, the homes of Governor's Hills are available for as low as P4,300+ for the triplex units, P7,000+ for the duplex homes and P13,500+ for the single-detached houses. On the other hand, the Helina triplex homes in Sta. Rosa Heights go for as low as P6,800+ a month and the Blanca duplex units for P7,000+ a month. All these are available to homebuyers through Pag-Ibig housing loans computed at 70 percent of the unit price and payable over 25 years.

For more information, please call Empire East Suntrust at 867-8530, 867-8715, 867-8532, 867-8544, 867-8553 and (046) 850-4546. For Sta. Rosa Heights inquiries, please call 867-8724.

15 questions on weighty matters /D4

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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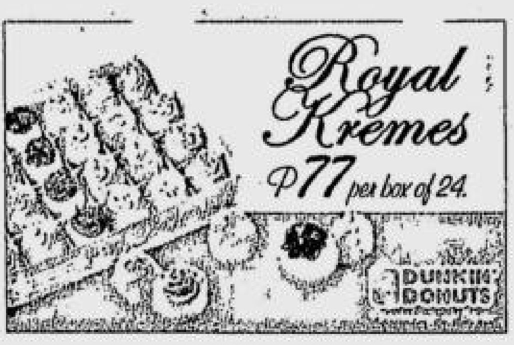

The corporate athlete

Psychologist Jim Loehr says the key to high performance in work is to manage your energy, not your time

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

ATHLETE is not a term normally used to describe a desk-bound business executive or office worker. But performance psychologist Jim Loehr says the performance demands most people face in their work environments "dwarf those of any professional athlete."

In his book, "The Power of Full Engagement," Loehr writes: "As a performer, the corporate athlete is the ultimate athlete."

He makes the conclusion after working with athletes and business people for 25 years. His Florida-based company, LGE Performance Training Systems, has taught sports personalities, businessmen and law enforcers the secret to sustaining high performance—managing energy levels efficiently.

Loehr explains that professional athletes typically spend 90 percent of their time training to perform 10 percent of the time. They have precise daily routines, get the right kind and amount of food, sleep, rest and recovery so they can compete at their peak.

They are on "vacation" for three to five months. After spending five to seven years in their careers, they retire in style, if they manage their finances well.

In contrast, the corporate athlete (everyone who works for a living) has to perform at his/her best 8-12 hours a day, usually gets on-

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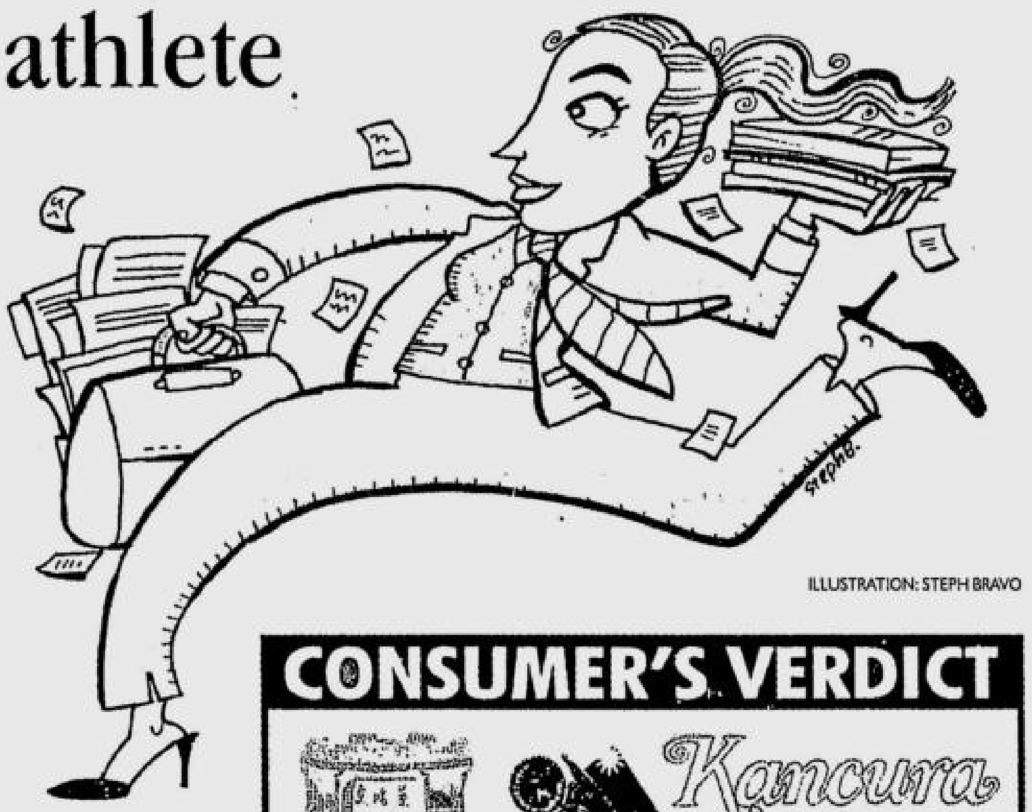

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MARIT Yuchengco

SINGAPORE hotshots Victor and Michelle Sassoon with Gerald Kong at the Kudeta

THE PHILIPPINE pack at Villa Indio: (first row) Maripi Muscat, Vicky Zubiri, Karen Santos, Lindsey Bench, our queen for four days, celebrator Kathy de Guzman and daughter Amanda; and Carla Tengco; (second row) Raul Manzano, *moi*, Al Tengco, Johnny Velasquez, Franco de Guzman and his father, our host Bing de Guzman; (third row) George and Teresa Goduco

Fab days and nights on the island of the gods

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

IF you think Cosmo Manille is the hub of the mad partying scene, think again *palanggas*. Our friendly neighbor, Singapore, is running neck-and-neck with us as demonstrated during the fabulous birthday bash of our town's loss and the Lion City's gain, tall, stylish woman of substance, **Kathy de Guzman**.

Her pals from Singapore and Manille flew to exotic Bali, Indonesia, where she held court for three straight days, *palanggas*. Jetting in were Singapore's and Manille's high-powered society figures, mega tycoons, business magnates and bankers.

The grand organizer that Kathy is, it was nonstop elegant dinners, cool poolside late champagne brunches, cocktails in the best clubs and bars, and nightclub hopping that had the chi-chi pack running from one end of Bali to the other.

The fab pre-birthday bash was hosted by Singapore's top-of-the-line buyer for international socialite **Cristina Ong's** Club 21 and Armani stores, the *tres charmant* **Bernard Teo**, at his sprawling summer home. Guests came in cool, cool white outfits.

Hot-shot personas from Singapore included **Stephen Stonefield**, former chair for Asia-Pacific of Credit Suisse First Boston, with his wife **Elizabeth**; absolutely adorable, vivacious **Rita de Brau**, an Indonesian heiress living in Singapore who is building her dream villa at Jimboran Bay designed by top Balinese architect **Popo Danes**; our very own internationally renowned painter **Pacita Abad**, with her good-looking hubby **Jack Garrity**.

The yummy-yummy Balinese buffet had the power-people going back for seconds. Brilliant, well-respected banker **Bing de Guzman**, ING's private banking chief executive officer for Asia-Pacific, entertained fellow mega bankers and businessmen all night long.

There were **Tito Yuchengco** and his wife, *simpaticissima* **Marit Y.**; witty restaurateur and entrepreneur **Al Tengco**; **Munchoy Garcia**; **George Filmaridas**, the hot-shot gentleman from American Orient Partners, with his wife **May**; oil trader **Steve Williams**, with his wife **Tarah** who just furnished their Bali home designed by top Malaysian architect **Yew Kwan**, the hot, hot architect of Bali's top resort, the mind-boggling Begawan Giri.

Dazzling stars of the affair were Manille's glamour gals **Vicky Zubiri**, **Carla Tengco**, **Maripi Muscat**, who received endless compliments on their looks and style, *palanggas*.

Our gorgeous home for four days was the beautifully lush private Villa Indio where Kathy and Bing had some of us in the Philippine pack as guests. The day after the dinner we had a late champagne brunch at the huge grounds by the cool poolside. Banker-entrepreneur **Raul Manzano**, Kashieca's fashionable **Karen Santos** and sisters **Serene** and **Jacqui Koo** were up early, taking in the Balinese sun before the beautiful invitees arrived at 11 a.m.

Brilliant architect **Ed** and **Susie Calma** stayed under the shade of a huge fire tree chatting with Kathy's brother and sister-in-law **George and Teresa Goduco**. Popular couple, businessman **Conkoy** and dazzling fashion plate **Doodie Tuason**, couldn't stop admiring the layout around the pool. You could have your fill of chicken and beef *satay* and *nasi goreng*, among others. Champagne flowed endlessly, natch! An ice cream corner was the most popular spot.

We then toured some of Bali's gorgeous six-star restaurants. The fantastic Four Seasons at Sayan, with rates ranging from $650-850 for a bungalow, was something out of paradise, sprawled along a hillside with a view of the river hundreds of feet below and lush mountains. No wonder this is where international celebrities like **Sting**, **Barbara Streisand**, **Madonna**, European royalties, the **Zobels** and **Donna Karan** stay.

After three days of lunches and dinners in the best places in Bali, the celebrator's big night took place at the chi-chi Kudeta that faced the ocean.

Kathy looked delicious in a slinky Gucci outfit, as the De Guzmans entertained the 850 invitees from Singapore, Paris, Manille, Hong Kong and Bali. The dinner menu was to-die for, personally chosen by our hostess and her husband.

Their children, smart **Franco** and brilliant exotic beauty **Amanda**, had their gangs like eye-catching **Lindsey Bench** and young handsome hunk **Sam Stonefield**, who admitted he preferred more mature, worldly women.

A surprise show, prepared by Kathy's hubby, featured Balinese dancing girls, drums and tons of flowers that thrilled everyone.

The party lasted till 4:30 a.m., guests going back to the bar for more fun.

Kathy, the woman of substance, style and class, couldn't thank her husband Bing enough for the fab four days, not to mention the "Wow!" birthday gift she received, dahlings.

CCP's friends

The super dedicated ladies of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) will host a chi-chi cocktail, "Musicale, Artists and Friends," 6-8 p.m., April 29, at the residence of the Belgian ambassador, **Christiaan Tanghe** and his wife Mme. **Gul Tanghe**, *palanggas*.

Marking its 25th anniversary, the FCCP is giving promising young artists exposure, particularly to a select group of wealthy music patrons. The event is organized by the special events committee headed by its director, socialite **Chit Gohu**, and chair, fashionable **Fortune Ledesma**, with the FCCP president, ultra glamorous **Mellie Ablaza**.

Featured are dancers of Ballet Manila, headed by prima ballerina **Lisa Macuja Elizalde**. An original ballet, "Arnis," will have nine male dancers, including two FCCP scholars. It focuses on a martial arts technique practiced in the Philippines even before the arrival of the Spaniards. The ballet will be premiered at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

Showcasing the Vaganova technique is the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet," choreographed by People's Artist of Russia **Sergei Vakulov** to the music of Sergei Prokofiev.

During the event, paintings of FCCP name-droppable members will be displayed at the residence of Ambassador Tanghe.

It should be a cultural night to experience *palanggas*.

KOMAW Neka, who owns Majon Gallery in Ubud, with his wife Sri

THE MANILLE PACK. Architect Ed Calma, megabusinessman Ben Santos, hostess Kathy, her brother George Goduco with wife Teresa, Sevi Santos, and Susie Calma at Villa Indio

SUPER PALS. Serene Po, Kathy and Cynthia Hofer at the poolside brunch party

MONCHOY Garcia

Quresh Aldjufrie, who divides his time between Bali, LA and San Francisco and just finished his huge house in Bali designed by Kerry Hill (designer of Amanussa, Amansara, Datai), with Carl Elias

MARIJO Kestemont

CONCKOY Tuason

MARIPI Muscat and *moi* posing for posterity.

JUDITH Chung and Sam Stonefield

NURDI Rohde

OUT in the sun. Charlie Blouer at Villa Indio

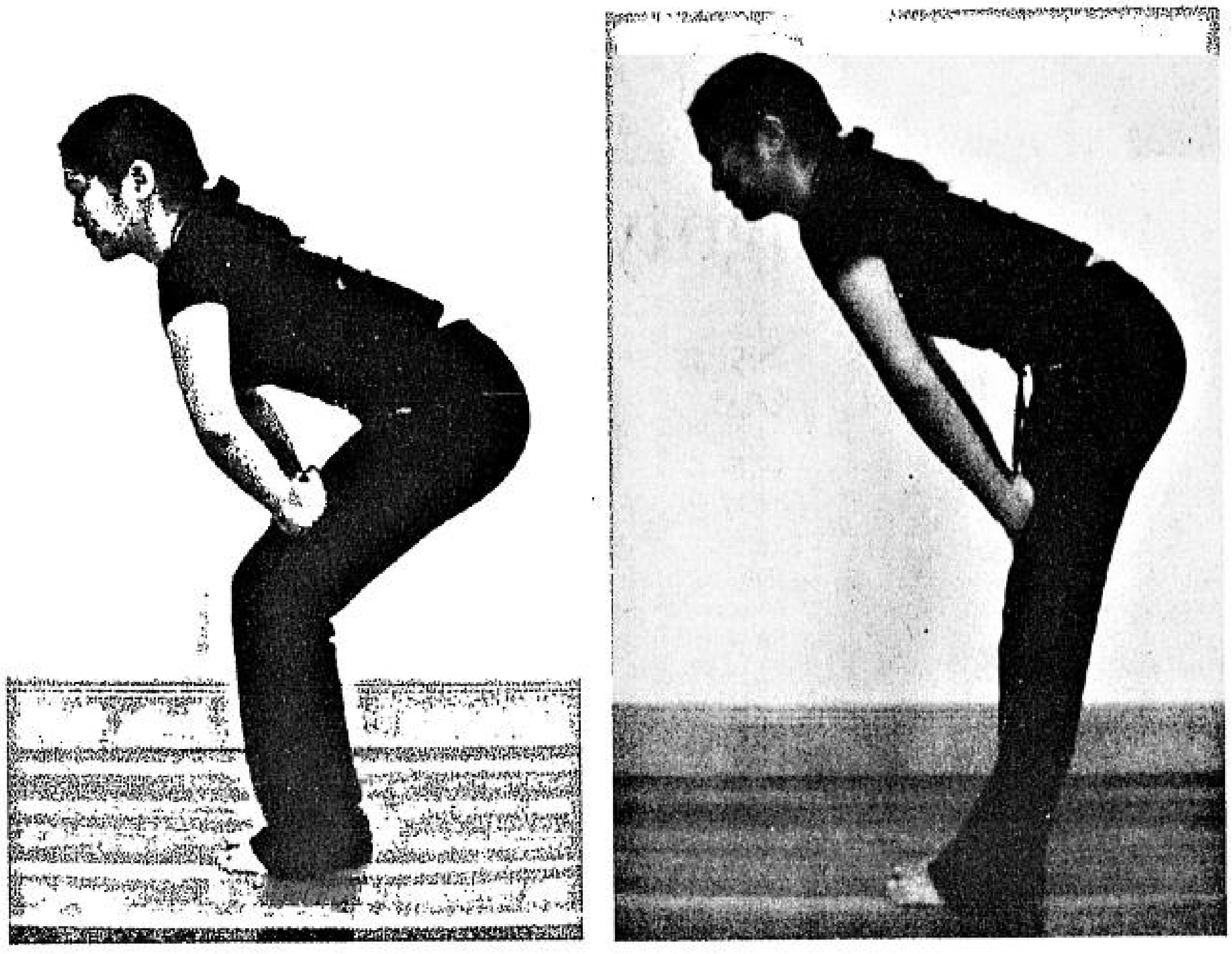
PETER and Aiwoon Teo, Bing de Guzman and Jos Ketemont

FCCP special events committee: (seated) member Olga Martel, director Chit Gohu, president Mellie Ablaza and chair Fortune Ledesma; (standing) members Pilie Aquino, Linda Villadelgado, Celine Bautista, Lucille Villanueva and Nini Layug

PACITA Abad, George Filmerides, Rita de Brau, John Lee, May Filmerides, host Bernard Teo, Vicky Zubiri and birthday gal Kathy de Guzman at the all-white party

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing double leg hamstring stretch



THIS exercise stretches hamstrings or muscles at the back of the legs in a weighted position.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with feet slightly apart. Place your hands on your thighs, bend your knees and come down into a squat position with your chest lifted and buttocks facing behind you.

2. Keep your upper body steady as you straighten your legs.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your chest lifted and buttocks sticking back behind you when you straighten your legs. You are hinged forward at your hips.

2. You should feel mild tension in your hamstrings but you should not feel pain. If it feels quite uncomfortable for your lower back or hamstrings, slide your hands higher along your thighs and lift your upper body slightly.

Repetitions:

Do five to six dynamic repetitions of bending and straightening, then hold the stretch for 10-20 seconds.

The corporate athlete

From page D1

ly a two-week break, and works for 40-50 years.

Loehr asks, "What makes it possible to keep performing at your best without sacrificing your health, your happiness and your passion for life?"

The answer, he says, is managing your energy the way a sports athlete does. He believes the key to high performance in work is to manage your energy, not your time.

Loehr has developed "The Complete Corporate Athlete Training Program." It teaches how to train like a professional athlete so you can be "fully engaged" or fully energized as you compete in the "rat race" called work.

In athletics, full engagement means an athlete who is totally committed to winning and focused during training and during a game. In business, full engagement is being passionate about your work, viewing problems as challenges instead of threats, and having enough energy for work and personal life.

Loehr cites 2001 data from the Gallup Organization showing that 30 percent of Americans are fully engaged at work (they love their jobs and are highly productive), 55 percent are "not engaged" (they produce mediocre work) and 19 percent are "actively disengaged" (they are unhappy and "poison" the minds of coworkers about the company).

Gallup found similar, if not worse, statistics in European and Asian countries.

This week, let's take a quick look at the main principles to becoming a fully engaged corporate athlete. Next week, we'll discuss practical ways to increase your physical energy at work.

Four sources of energy

Loehr defines energy as simply the capacity to do any kind of work. He says it is the most precious resource an individual and an organization have because it "is the fuel that ignites talent and skill."

Energy, he says, has four separate but related dimensions: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual (commitment to one's deepest values, regardless of circumstance).

Full engagement occurs when a person is "physically energized, emotionally connected, mentally focused and spiritually aligned." Loehr says the most fundamental source of energy is physical but the most significant is spiritual.

You lose energy from overuse and underuse.

When you do too much (demand exceeds capacity), you become burned out and overwhelmed. If you don't do enough (not enough challenge), you become bored and mediocre.

You need stress to grow. Loehr says stress is not the enemy but the key to growth. Any form of stress that takes you out of your comfort zone can make you grow as a person and will be beneficial when followed by an adequate recovery period. He adds we should think of life as a series of sprints (bursts of speed followed by a rest period) rather than a marathon (continuous stress).

Companies that take pride in a culture of continuous work (all-day meetings, long days, working overtime) are compromising the performance of their people and, in the end, their own bottom line.

The energy rhythm

Everything in nature is rhythmic and occurs in intervals—day and night, tidal ebbs and flows, inhaling and exhaling, contraction and relaxation of the heart, etc.

Scientists have found that not only do we sleep in cycles of 90-120 minutes but we also experience the same thing during the day. This is called the "ultradian rhythms."

Loehr writes: "The ultradian rhythms help to account for the ebb and flow of our energy throughout the day. Somewhere between 90 and 120 minutes, the body begins to crave a period of rest and recovery. Signals include a desire to yawn and stretch, hunger pangs, increased tension, difficulty concentrating, an inclination to procrastinate or fantasize, and a higher incidence of mistakes."

He recommends renewing your energy through five to 10 minutes of total disengagement from whatever you are doing. Sitting still and meditating, taking a stretch break and going for a walk are ways to purposely disengage and recover your energy so you can return to your work refreshed and fully engaged.

More corporate athlete training techniques next week

For more information on "The Complete Corporate Athlete Training Program," go to www.corporateathlete.com or www.PowerofFullEngagement.com

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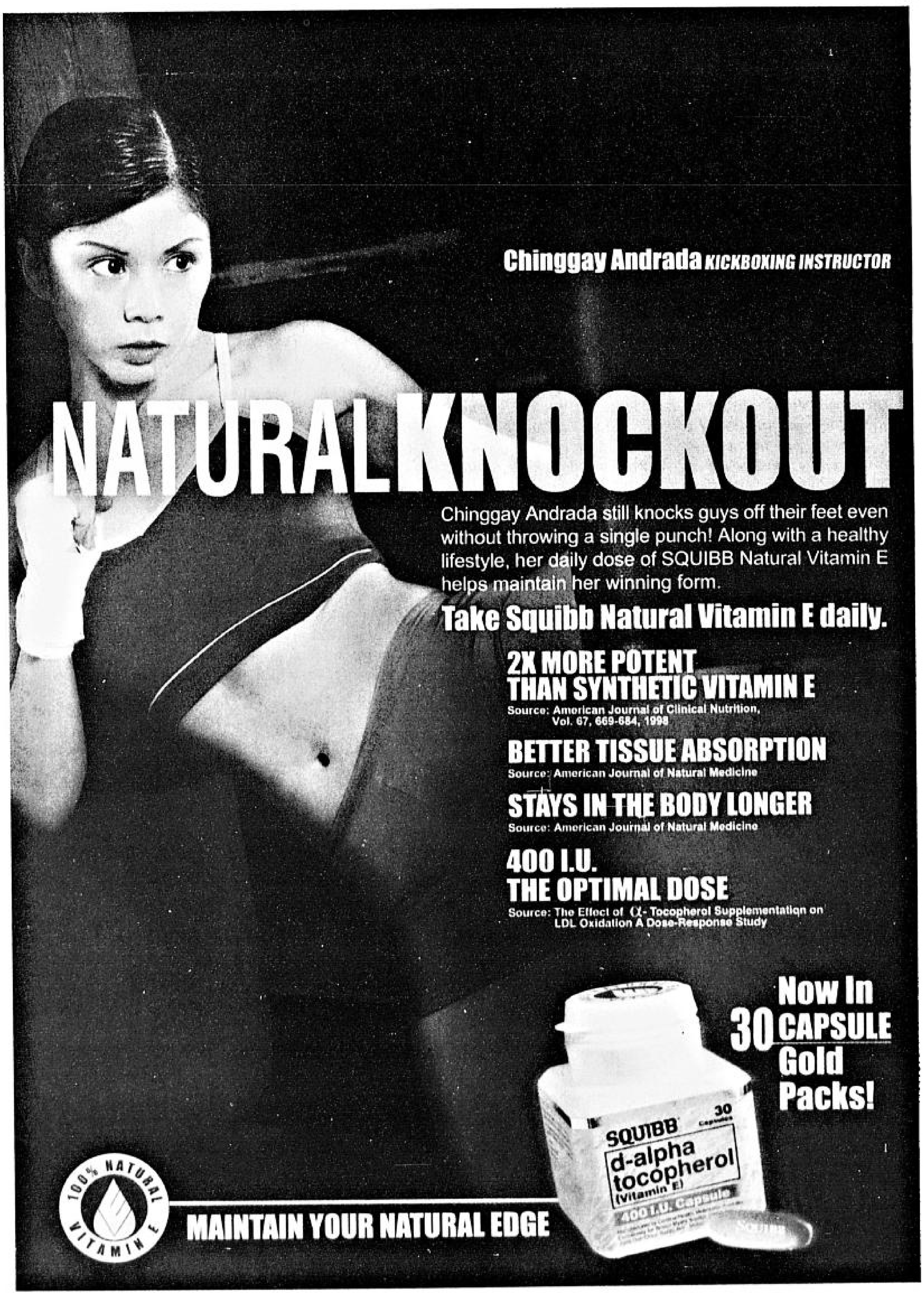

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MAINTAIN YOUR NATURAL EDGE

As metabolism slows down with age, you should exercise more to minimize weight gain

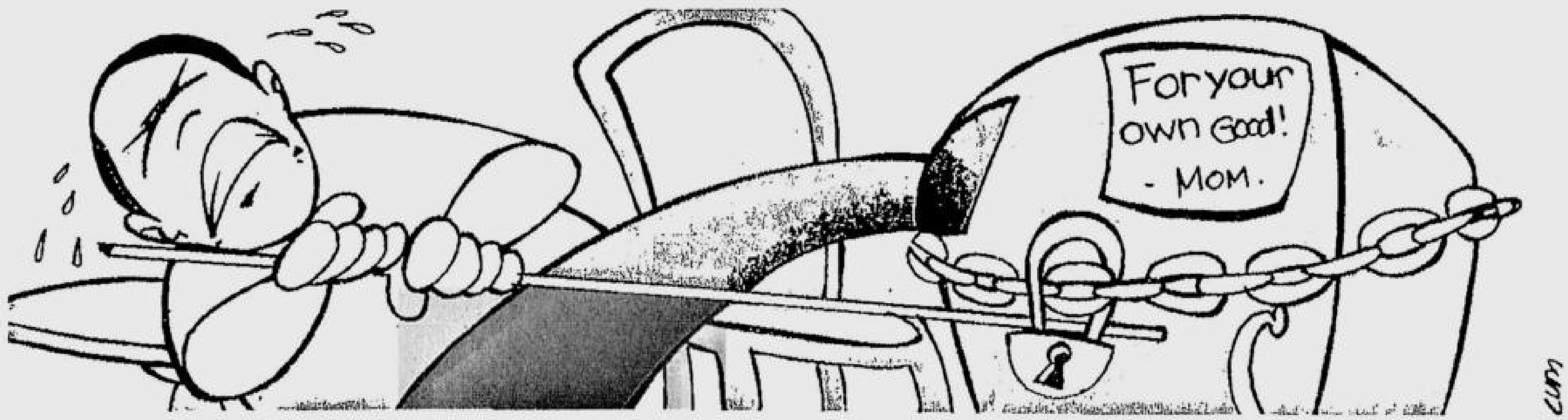
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ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

15 weighty questions

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WHAT does overweight mean?

Doctors go by established Body Mass Index standards to determine overweight. Today, strictly speaking, if you are 25 pounds heavier than what is supposed to be your ideal weight you are considered obese. The waist circumference test sets the rules. Acceptable for men—less than 37½ inches; for women—less than 32 inches. Beyond this, you are overweight.

Why am I overweight when I hardly eat?

It is believed that the less active you are, the less food you need. Overweight people who live sedentary lives should eat less.

What about heredity? Can I blame my weight problems on my genes?

There are indications that weight problems can be hereditary. However, it doesn't mean because of family history you are doomed to stay overweight. One can, on a low-calorie diet and effective exercise program, lose weight.

How does slow metabolism cause weight gain?

Research has proven that a low metabolism doesn't really make you fat—eating more than a slim person is the problem.

Isn't it normal to put on weight as one ages?

Yes. One's metabolic rate slows down with age and lean tissue mass is slowly lost. You can neutralize this by exercising more.

Should I change? I am happy being fat.

Overweight people often suffer from various health problems and risk early death. Your happiness could be short-lived.

What is the best weight-loss diet?

You can either stick to three big meals or five small meals a day. Keep caloric intake low (men: 1,500-1,750 cal/day; women: 1,250-1,500 cal/day). Increase exercise and activity levels.

Is there a fast way to lose weight?

There is no fast-tracking weight loss. Gradual is best. Starvation diets don't work because they leave you hungry. Research shows that those who lose weight fast tend to gain it back again. You could try cutting back on your carbohydrate intake, say from one cup to half a cup, at meal times.

Do I remove the fat or the calories?

They must be cut down simultaneously. Go easy on starches like bread, potatoes, pasta, rice and fat like meats, cakes, pastries, etc.

Can one control hunger pangs?

Habit can be mistaken for hunger so eat only when you are hungry, not when the clock says so. Have a diet high in fiber. Menstruating women eat more during their cycle. This is okay.

Can I control my food cravings?

One is allowed dessert after a low-fat meal. Nothing wrong with this. But bingeing on certain foods isn't good. Eating regular meals will neutralize cravings unless you lack a mineral like potassium, which could lead to sugar/alcohol cravings, or you are depressed and seek comfort foods.

Can I eat out and feel safe about my meal?

Yes, if you start off with a salad, and order fish or lean meat with a moderate amount of carbohydrates. Limit alcohol intake to two glasses a day.

Should I weigh myself daily?

It's not necessary. A weekly weigh-in is good enough.

Is it true that maintaining a new thin body is difficult?

Yes. Keeping excess weight off permanently is more difficult than losing it. Most successful dieters also easily gain weight. This has to do with your lifestyle choices. Eat healthy. Slim people cannot eat as much as they did when they were fat.

Can I diet by eating nonfat processed food?

Nothing wrong with eating processed food unless it is laced with preservatives, coloring and seasoning. Still, fresh produce is best.

Healthy Heart Salad

1 apple
1 mango
½ melon (peeled and chopped)
2 kiwis

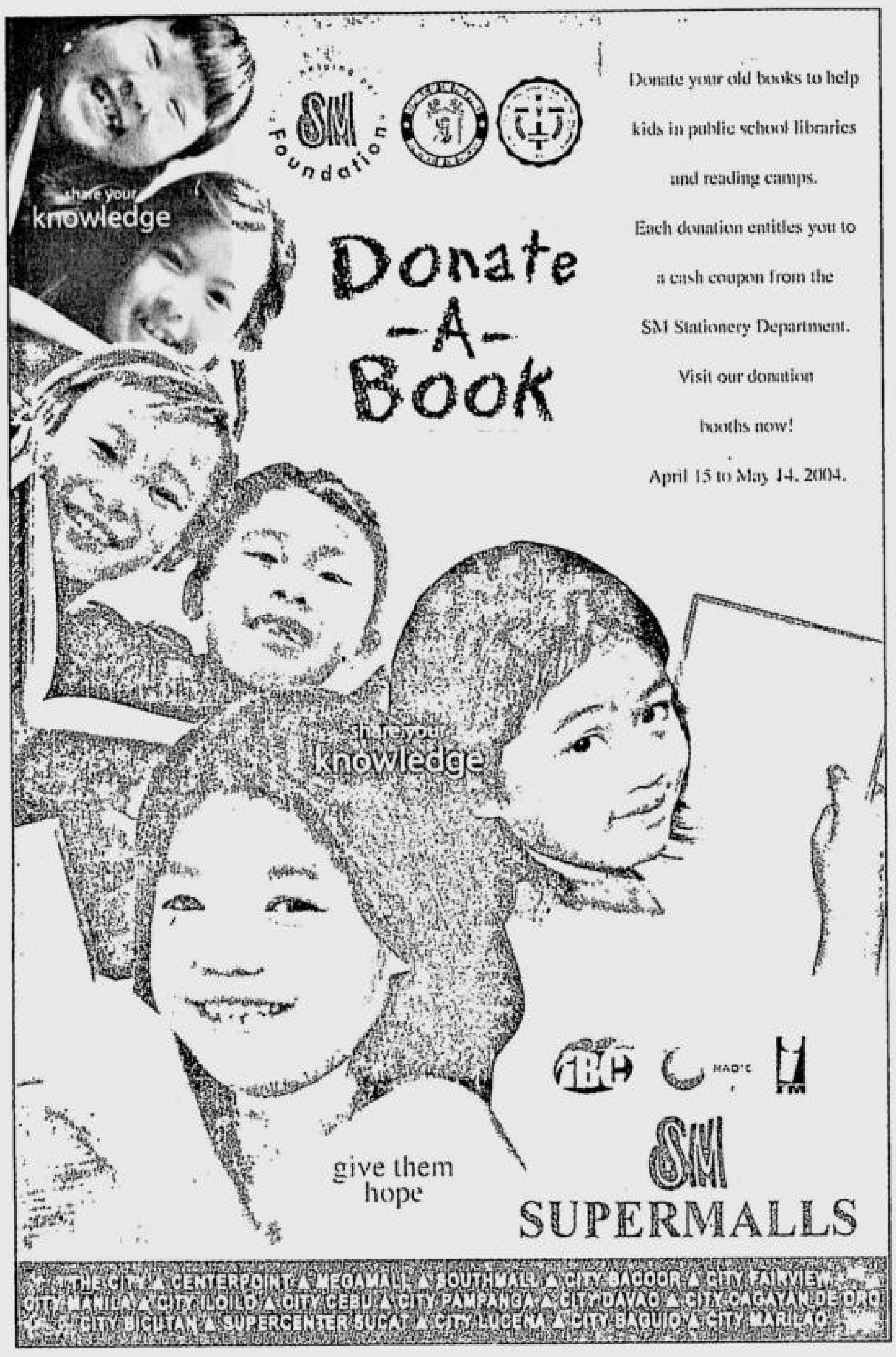
Add 2 c low-fat yoghurt. Chill and serve.

Exfoliant rub

Crush half an apple, wrap it in a hanky and rub on a clean face. Feel the juices cleanse and exfoliate your skin. Rinse with cool water.

Love and light!

Reference: "The Food Bible" by Judith Wills



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Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! kicks off its 4th year with a totally different concept. From the previous format of being a question and answer guide for members about MEDICard and its services, to an almanac of knowledge in healthcare.

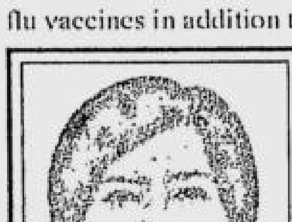
The New Take Charge Doc! now features questions and answers about general health issues and illnesses answered through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, your weekly healthcare guide parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health, featuring for the month of April a campaign to support various health programs to reduce childhood illnesses.

What is active and passive vaccination? For the summer months, what vaccinations would you recommend for my toddler?

In active vaccination, a vaccine (a substance which contains the offending organism but has either been chemically killed or genetically weakened so that they do not produce disease) is introduced to the body either by injection or oral means. In this way, the immune system is activated and therefore generates its own response hence, protecting the body against disease. Examples of these are the Hepatitis B vaccine and Oral Polio Vaccine.

On the other hand, passive immunization does not involve the person's own immune system. Rather, antibodies produced by someone else are injected to the person because his own immune system cannot react promptly to stop a rapidly spreading disease. These agents act fast, however their effect is short-lived unlike that of the active vaccination. Examples of these passive agents are the Hepatitis B and Hepatitis A Immunoglobulins.

This summer, I would recommend that your toddlers receive vaccination for measles, chicken pox and flu vaccines in addition to the usual basic immunizations.



This week's feature question was answered by **Dr. Rosemarie V. Gonzales**, a MEDICard provider since 1991. She is the mother of TV personalities Kristina and Katrina Gonzales, more popularly known as the "Ja-Boom" twins. She began her career in Medicine after graduating from the University of Santo Tomas in 1984 and chose to specialize in Pediatrics, finishing her residency at Cardinal Santos Medical Center in 1989. Dr. Gonzales is very fond of children. In fact, she says that this is probably the reason why she chose to become a Pediatrician. Visit her for your children's consultation needs at MEDICard's Head Office clinic in Makati, 9/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St. every Mon and Tues from 1 to 3 PM, Wed and Fri from 10 to 12 noon and on Sat from 7:30 to 1:30 PM. You can also bring your children for consultations at MEDICard Festival Supermall Clinic every Tues from 4 to 8 PM and on Sun from 9 to 12 noon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o TAKE CHARGE DOC!) or e-mail him at inquiry @medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

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The powerful Utol Jess

Part 3

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MEMBERS of Haring Bakal in Lipa, Batangas hold Jess Verallo in high esteem. I learned that among amulet aficionados, there is a hierarchy of the powers that people possess, and Jess' occupies one of the highest ranks.

Before the blessing, we listened to members' stories about the powers of their amulets. Jess related how, on one occasion, he was threatened by a group of armed men. Alone and armed only with a bolo, he said an *oracion* or secret prayer, and the men suddenly scampered away.

I asked why, and he said they might have seen something. He did not elaborate. I suspect he was referring to the powerful spirit guides he could call in times of danger.

On another occasion, an *anting-anting* owner showed him his *mutya*, boasting it was very powerful. Jess put the object into his mouth and bit it. The *mutya* crumbled like powder. When told about it, the owner said, "Maybe it's your teeth that got broken."

Jess handed the broken amulet to him and the man shouted, "Oh, it's a fake!" He invited Jess to his house and asked for the *oracion* used to break the *mutya*.

Temple of God

Jess said he used no *oracion* or power word. "My amulet is in my very person, because my body is the temple of God," he explained.

Jess' reputation as a possessor of unusual powers was sealed when he revived his niece who drowned while swimming in a lake. She drowned at 7 a.m. and the lifeless body was recovered at 11 p.m. Jess summoned the girl's spirit to return to her body and she revived. Until now, the girl is still alive. This story has been told and retold in the village and beyond.

Another incredible story was told to us by a member of Verallo's group. "One day," he said, "a jeep's brakes [failed while the vehicle was going down a] steep road leading to the house of Jun Verallo. Jess was driving a jeep going up the same hill. The driver kept shouting, 'I have no brakes! I have no brakes.' " Before the vehicle could hit Verallo's jeep, so the story goes, it stopped and remained motionless until Jess could swerve to the side to avoid a collision. The jeep then continued to go down hill and crashed.

"My dream," Utol Jess said, "is to put on the right path all who ask help from me. I do not want even one of them to be taken advantage of or be in danger."

Jess now has followers throughout Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

History of Haring Bakal

Very little is known about the history and background of Haring Bakal. According to Jess Verallo, it began in Mindanao in the late 1800s. It was founded by Dodong Aquilino Lagari Gulang.

The organization aims to protect the weak and those whose lives are threatened by dangerous elements, to fight evil and help the government. To be protected, one has to join the brotherhood. A member has to be blessed. The blessing includes being hacked with a very sharp bolo or a sword several times in different parts of the body.

The number of times one gets hacked determines his ranking or status in the brotherhood. Initially he gets six strikes, later 21, then 36 and finally, 57, for a total of 120. The 36 strikes include the nape and the 57 strikes include the two sides of the neck as well as the head.

Once a person has been properly blessed by an authorized "blessor," he becomes a member of Haring Bakal. He will then receive a prayer to be said every day and has to wear a special red T-shirt on which are written sacred words or *oracion* of protection. This becomes the member's only *anting-anting* or amulet. Members of Haring Bakal, unlike other amulet believers, do not carry medallions or other metallic or wooden amulets in their body. They believe the *oracions,* which are taken from the Holy Book and come directly from God, protect them from knives and bullets, and even sorcery and accidents.

Every new member recites the Oath of Allegiance that says, among other things, he will "love God and obey His commandments, instill the spirit of Christianism and to serve and defend my country without mental reservations."

When founder Dodong Lagari died, no one was appointed to replace him as overall head. It remains vacant and members still consider him the head of the organization. The others are called chapter heads or presidents but a head "blessor" is higher than a president.

Clearances

Before one is initiated into the organization, he must submit clearances from the police, National Bureau of Investigation and barangay. He should also have a drug clearance.

News of Haring Bakal members' ability to ward off bullets and knives has led to a significant increase in membership. Especially eager to join are military and police personnel whose lives are always in danger. Today, estimates of Haring Bakal membership throughout the Philippines range from 300,000 to one million.

Members strictly adhere to a code of ethics requiring them to protect, not to harm, people. Violators are expelled. Some of those expelled later formed their own organizations and adopted some of the rituals and practices of Haring Bakal. Thus, it is not easy to determine overall membership.

Listen to to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 7-8:30 p.m.